

## Parish Mission and Vision Update for the Parish Pastoral Council- January 8, 2022

### General updates:

-Rob Ponce began January 4th as the new Communications Director. He'll organize all parish communications including bulletin, website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Flocknote, YouTube, SoundCloud, live streaming, physical bulletin boards, and outreach to the larger community about events and initiatives at the parish.

-Meet Your Mother Advent initiative and January Marian consecration have been well received.

-Dave VanVickle Parish Mission January 16th

-Spanish Parish Mission with Fr. Mauricio Carrasco of the Diocese of Little Rock will be in late May

-Partnership with St. John Catholic Student Center continues to go well for all involved. The new St. John's is expected to be done in January 2023.

-Stewardship Renewal was very successful with our highest participation ever. There is a need for new leadership within the Stewardship Council. Suggestions are most welcome. The McGread Stewardship Conference will be March 16-17th in Wichita.

-Parish debt is officially under \$1M and will soon be under \$900,000. This is a top financial priority to get this paid off as soon as possible.

-RCIA, First Communion, Confirmation, Inspired all moving all nicely and according to plan.

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### Encounter #2- Aligned Activities:

-Encounter activities beginning this month: RCIA, Xavier Kids, Xavier Teens, Invitation to Personal Prayer, Marian consecration, Adoration, and the Dave VanVickle Parish Mission on January 16th.

### Encounter #3- Entry Points:

-RCIA is being run by Fr. Robert with great success. We're seeing more people interested as the year goes on.

### Encounter #4- Daily Prayer:

-Final Stewardship Renewal results will be ready in a few weeks as some cards are just being processed. Anecdotally, there has been more and more activity in the church and chapel of people just stopping by to pray.

### Encounter #7- Confessions:

-With school back in session next week and St. John's back open, Confessions times will increase once again. Students and parishioners take advantage of both places. 12-15 hours a week are available between the two parishes. Sunday morning Confession available when both Father O'Brien and Father Robert are here continue to be utilized with great effect.

### Encounter #8- The Rosary:

-The Advent "Meet Your Mother" initiative headed by Jessica Petter and the January Marian consecration (also led by Jessica) are available in English and Spanish with about 130 people (that we know of) participating. Evening online rosary continues led by Rob and Gina Agnew with assistance from Mona Pratt and Taylor and Brett Akins.

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### Grow #2:

-Invitation to Personal Prayer, Marian consecration, Fr. O'Brien's "The Gospel of Life" class, Cursillo, CCO small groups, parish mission, and Meet Your Mother are all GROW opportunities. RCIA on Tuesday nights is also open to the whole parish. Very few are taking advantage of the Tuesday evening talks. Not sure why. Most talks are available after the event on YouTube or SoundCloud for those who couldn't come or to pass on to those who don't come to church.

### Grow #4- Parish Staff Formation:

-The whole parish staff is going through the Marian consecration together.

-Monthly staff Mass with Fr. O'Brien is now a reality

**Grow #5- Adult Catechesis in Spanish:**

-Meet Your Mother in December was offered in English and Spanish. Fr. Carlos Loiaza and Fr. Leonardo Medina traveled several hours to come and speak.

-Marian consecration also available in Spanish

-Parishioner Hugo Ferrar will be offering catechesis in the months ahead. Staff member Angela Vivar will organize.

**Grow #6- Marriage Preparation:**

-All three Stillwater based priests spend significant time preparing couples for marriage. Many get married here, others in their hometowns but there's lots of preparation taking place here. About 25 couples are currently in formation.

-Through the generosity of Matt and Rose Cabeen, over 40 couples have taken a course in Natural Family Planning. There's not anything like that happening in any parish in Oklahoma.

**Grow #7- Marriage Strengthening:**

-Fr. O'Brien, Fr. Robert, and Jessica Petter are working on a parish marriage retreat sometime in the Spring.

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**Go #2- Welcoming the Poor:**

-"Love Thy Neighbor" continues to help people every week through the parish office. Mother Teresa Ministry volunteers are in the office returning phone calls and helping people with gas and food.

-Afghan resettlement is underway with 5 families currently here and more on the way. We received wonderful financial support to help these families long term. Volunteers continue to work with other churches and OSU to settle families.

**Go #3- Stillwater Catholic Charities:**

-Local efforts now led by Robin FitzGerald continue to offer ESL and GED classes.

Catholic Charities Annual Appeal for Stillwater finished at around \$54,000 plus a \$50,000 matching gift. Our people are so generous.

**Go #6- Use of Media:**

-We continue to livestream two Sunday Masses (11:15 and 1pm). We record many classes and talks to make them available on social media and our SoundCloud account. Sunday homilies are available on SoundCloud, Facebook, and YouTube. Pastors of Payne podcast and radio show continues to reach 500-700 people a week. Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram followers continue to rise.

-New Communications Director Rob Ponce will greatly enhance our communications efforts especially outside the parish.

**Go #8- RCIA:**

-Under the leadership of Fr. Robert, RCIA is going well. They meet Tuesday nights from 6:30-8:00. Some in the group need annulments which is a lengthy and often frustrating process. Within the staff, we're working on a plan to get the priests and deacons more support to handle annulments more efficiently.

**Building #2- Stained Glass Windows:**

-The committee will be meeting in January to move forward discussions on whether to contract with a company to do the windows in the chapel to see if this company can help us long term. I expect a contract to be signed in mid 2022 and the project to move forward from there.

**Building #4- Catholic School:**

-Father O'Brien will convene a group this Spring to discuss a Catholic school for Stillwater. Several signs point to possibly opening a school: Stillwater growing, OSU growing, no Catholic schools for 40 miles, ECDC is booming, lots of babies being born. Father O'Brien is meeting with Bishop Konderla in January to get his input.