

Parish Mission and Vision Update for the Parish Pastoral Council - February 5, 2022

General updates:

-Rob Ponce began January 4th as the new Communications Director. He's organizing 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.

-We're hiring now for the position of Hospitality Coordinator. This individual will play a key part in helping us healing some of the damage done by Covid. They will also help to make all events better with food and amenities.

-We have several initiatives for Lent including a pre-Lent prayer retreat and Lenten Lectio. These will be lead by Jessica Petter.

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

-In a spirit of stewardship Fr. O'Brien and Fr. Robert have been helping at some other parishes including Sunday coverage on Holderville and Okmulgee. Fr. O'Brien will be leading the parish mission in Hugo, Antlers, and Boswell from March 6-8th. Priests also assist Fr. Kerry at St. John Catholic Student Center.

Encounter #2- Aligned Activities:

-Encounter activities beginning this month: RCIA, Xavier Kids, Xavier Teens, Invitation to Personal Prayer, Marian consecration, Adoration, Spanish mini-talks, and Young Adult gathering

Encounter #3- Entry Points:

-RCIA run by Fr. Robert. We've had several new people join in over the last month.

Encounter #4- Daily Prayer:

-"Pray Like Jesus: A Personal Prayer Retreat" will be on Saturday February 26. It's free and open to the whole parish.

Encounter #8- The Rosary:

-January Marian Consecration included about 150 people. The closing Mass was postponed due to weather and will be celebrated this Wednesday. The Mass will be bilingual.

-Evening online rosary continues led by Rob and Gina Agnew with assistance from Mona Pratt and Taylor and Brett Akins.

Grow #2: Opportunities to Grow

-Pray Like Jesus Retreat, February Spanish mini-talks, Marian consecration, Cursillo, CCO small groups, parish mission, Stations of the Cross classes 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. 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. In March we will start catechist training in Spanish one Saturday a month.

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:

-Marian consecration also available in Spanish

-Parishioner Hugo Ferrar is offering mini-talks with music at 2pm for the Sundays of February. Staff member Angela Vivar is organizing.

-Beginning in March, religious sisters from Tulsa will be coming once a month for a three hour session on the basics of the faith. This will be open to all Spanish speakers and will lead to them being certified as catechist. This will be once a month for three years. It will take place entirely in Spanish.

-We're working with St. Francis Xavier in Tulsa for help in getting a weekly Bible study going again.

Parish Mission and Vision Update for the Parish Pastoral Council - February 5, 2022

Grow #6- Marriage Preparation:

-All three Stillwater based priests continue to 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 28 couples are currently in formation.

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 40 individuals now in Stillwater. Volunteers continue to work with other churches and OSU to settle families. The final number of individuals will end up close to 60.

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 is ramping our ability to make videos in house. Before Covid we had been outsourcing that to a company in Tulsa.

Go #8- RCIA:

-Under the leadership of Fr. Robert, RCIA continues to grow. They meet Tuesday nights from 6:30-8:00. Some in the group need annulments which is a lengthy and often frustrating process. That will delay their official entrance into the Church.

Building #2- Stained Glass Windows:

-The committee met with another company in early February. There are now two companies that are very competitive and who have what we want. The key is both their expertise with beautiful windows but also the capacity to make a lot of windows.

Building #3- Expanding Classrooms and Other Spaces

-An idea has been floated to use the old church as a space for our many evangelization activities. Using the upstairs of the old church has this potential.

Building #4- Catholic School:

-Bishop Konderla has given the go-ahead for us to begin a conversation in earnest. He said a school in Stillwater, if feasible, would be good for this part of the diocese. It's his desire that it could not only serve the Stillwater area but also places like Cushing, Drumright, and Pawnee.

-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.