



Embracing *a Future Full of Hope*

A Pastoral Plan for the Diocese of London

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.
(Jeremiah 29:11)*

Preamble:

Called by Jesus through baptism into his passion, death and resurrection and anointed by the Spirit, we, the people of God in the Diocese of London, are to be living signs of Christ's presence in the world today. United in Christ, the Bread of Life, we commit ourselves to carrying out the mission of proclaiming the coming of the kingdom of God in our time. We embrace the Gospel – believing what we read, preaching what we believe, and practicing what we preach.

As a people of faith, trusting in the Spirit who leads us, we dedicate ourselves to the following goals:

Goal I

As living signs of Christ's presence, we will respond to the call to personal holiness given to all by committing ourselves to opportunities for ongoing conversion and spiritual renewal.

Goal II

Called by Christ, we will evangelize through the clear proclamation of the Gospel and the constant teaching of the Catholic faith, assuring that such proclamation and teaching is linked to the life experience of the people.

Goal III

With our sights set on the mission of Jesus, we will minister with justice and compassion to the wounded, the searching, the entrapped and those in material and spiritual need.

Goal IV

As the Body of Christ, formed by word and sacrament, we will make provision for meaningful liturgical celebrations in our parish communities to ensure full, conscious and active participation by all.


Goal V

Inviting all to co-responsible ministry, we will encourage and support the ongoing formation of laity, religious and ordained.

Goal VI

Imitating Christ the servant-leader, we will employ and model governance practices at all levels that seek to: meet the needs of God's people, support the Church's mission, ensure appropriate participation in decision-making by the laity, religious and ordained, uphold Gospel stewardship, and promote accountability and transparency.

Promulgated at St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica
in London, Ontario on May 30, 2004,
the Solemnity of Pentecost

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Most Rev. Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B.
Bishop of London

Objectives Report 2011

Goal 1

As living signs of Christ's presence, we will respond to the call to personal holiness given to all by committing ourselves to opportunities for ongoing conversion and spiritual renewal.

Objectives

To foster ongoing conversion among those not regularly attending Sunday liturgy, we will reorganize our sacramental preparation program to include the entire family including individual interviews with a member of the parish pastoral team and family catechesis

Goal 2

Called by Christ, we will evangelize through the clear proclamation of the Gospel and the constant teaching of the Catholic faith, assuring that such proclamation and teaching is linked to the life experience of the people.

Objectives

In order to deepen our understanding of the faith especially to non-practicing Catholics we will offer bible studies and catechesis at sites that are parish neutral and in a more welcoming manner including shared meals, table discussion etc. such as.. – Alpha, Six Dates for Catholic Couples

We will offer workshops on the new evangelization and how a parish can be transformed from maintenance to mission

We will upgrade our parish bulletin and website to be more welcoming and a tool of evangelization and catecheses

We will facilitate a written questionnaire to all parishioners on aspects of the faith to be answered before Mass on Sunday and then reviewed in the Pastor's corner of the bulletin

Goal 3

With our sights set on the mission of Jesus, we will minister with justice and compassion to the wounded, the searching, the entrapped, and those in material and spiritual need.

Objectives

We will re-organize our program for Visitation of the Sick by providing consistent, regular direction, increasing the number of volunteers, and establishing an annual meeting. The Parish Council will seek a coordinator for the program.

In response to the gospel mandate to comfort the sorrowing, we will establish a peer-led bereavement group.

Acknowledging the link between body and spirit and the importance of our role as healers, we will organize a Parish Nurse Ministry;

Co-ordinate this ministry with like-minded outreach ministries such as St. Vincent de Paul, Visitation of the Sick and Bereavement.

Through the formation of a Social Justice committee, we will investigate ways and means of educating and involving our parish in social justice concerns both locally and globally.

At this time our parish has embraced Fr. Nichola Mauro-Iko's cause to the women and children of Sudan

Goal 4

As the Body of Christ, formed by word and sacrament, we will make provision for meaningful liturgical celebrations in our parish communities to ensure full, conscious, and active participations by all.

Objectives

In order to provide a meaningful liturgical celebration in our parish, and to ensure a full and conscious participation by all, we plan to offer and provide ongoing training and development to key liturgical ministries. As part of this training and development, we also plan to implement bi-annual meetings with the chair people of each ministry in order to network and share ideas and plans.

We will also offer ongoing catechesis to the parish on the scriptural and theological meaning of the Mass including bible studies and teaching masses.

Goal 5

Inviting all to co-responsible ministry, we will encourage and support the ongoing formation of laity, religious, and ordained.

Objectives

We will empower one another within our parish community by gathering twice a year, at the beginning of Advent and Lent, at which time the various groups within our parish family will share their gifts and talents through prayer and celebration. Each event will end with a presentation given by a guest/motivational speaker. In such events, we hope to encourage, educate and inform ourselves and attract newcomers.

We will offer workshops on the characteristics of charisms, how to discern one's personal charisms and how charisms can interact in a parish.

We will offer catechesis on aspects of the faith including "What does the Bible say about Mary" , "The Bible and the Mass" "The Confident Catholic", Bible Study for youth

Goal 6

Imitating Christ the servant-leader, we will employ and model governance practices at all levels that seek to: meet the needs of God's people, support the Church's mission, ensure appropriate participations in decision-making by the laity, religious and ordained, uphold gospel stewardship, and promote accountability and transparency.

Objectives

To create a more accountable working relationship between all of the parish ministries, we will establish working committees who will be responsible and required to report to the Parish Council on a regular and scheduled basis.

We will implement within the parish a ministry of Stewardship to encourage participation by the laity at all levels of time, talent and treasure in their daily lives.

We will facilitate a 10 year initiative of financial planning grounded in the Church's mission of evangelization called "Restore the church that Faith Built".