

Holy Name of Jesus
Catholic Church

Niceville, Florida

Parish Pastoral Plan

April 1, 2007

*For just as a body without a spirit is dead, so
also faith without works is dead.*

James (2:26)

Executive Summary

This Pastoral Plan is meant to be a reflection of God's will for Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church of Niceville, Florida. This plan outlines the mission, goals for the next 3-5 years, and objectives of how to attain those goals. This plan was developed through the efforts of a Parish Pastoral Planning Commission. This body of parish members gathered inputs from the parish during two parish assembly day events, and composed the information from these two events into a consolidated plan. This plan is meant to be a living document and to emphasize immediate and future needs. The intent is not to take away focus or support from existing ministries, but only to add to parish ministries. There was no evidence of a need, nor were there any suggestions to make any changes to current ministries. The success of the plan is dependent upon the involvement of the entire parish and the sharing of individual gifts. The plan is meant to be updated annually with inputs from the entire parish. Following promulgation of the plan, a Parish Plan Implementation Commission will need to be formed. This new commission shall work with the Pastoral Council to oversee planning efforts and to make recommendations on how to better achieve the Parish goals.

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BACKGROUND

In an effort to encourage more involvement from the parish community, and to share the gifts God has entrusted to each one of us, the parish has embarked on forming a new Parish Pastoral Plan. Supported by the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, this effort is to coincide with the revisioning of the parish pastoral council. The parish pastoral plan identifies and prioritizes the ways in which the parish is being called to live out its specific mission. The framework used to develop the plan was the seven essential elements of parish life: Evangelization, Worship, Word, Community, Service, Stewardship, and Leadership.

Participation from the entire parish is a key factor for the success of developing and implementing the plan. Throughout the process, the parish was invited to contribute their time and insights into the needs of the parish and community. The first step in the process was to train volunteers in the process so the task could be led by members within the parish. Several members of the parish attended a workshop and were taught the basic framework for the plan. In turn, these members trained a new committee to carry out the entire process. This committee is the Parish Pastoral Planning Commission (PPPC). To kick off the process, the PPPC developed a survey which would provide valuable information for the planning effort. This survey was handed out to everyone attending the parish liturgies on one weekend in August of 2006. In all, there were 525 respondents to the survey. The results of the survey helped the PPPC identify how the church was fulfilling the needs of the parish and also identified areas needing additional attention (survey results in: *CARA Pastoral Assistance Surveys and Services, Parish Life Survey, Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Niceville, Florida, November 2006*). Using this information and the guidance proposed for the planning process, the PPPC started planning for the next step, conducting multiple parish assembly day meetings. These meetings served as the primary instrument for collecting inputs and finalizing focus areas for the parish. The primary products of the assembly days was a parish mission statement, goals for the next 3-5 years, and objectives on how to achieve those goals.

The first assembly day was held on January 13, 2007 and was attended by 63 parish members. The PPPC presented historical information about Holy Name of Jesus and information from the parish survey. This information provided a basic understanding of existing parish ministries and future needs. No existing ministries were identified as unnecessary or not fulfilling their need. The assembly then spent time examining the existing parish mission statement. Based on a consensus from assembly participants, a decision was reached to amend the statement. Assembly participants spent time in small groups brainstorming ideas and then inputs were presented to the entire assembly. Those inputs were collected for later inclusion and development of a draft statement. Next, the assembly spent time looking at the seven essential elements. Teams focused on one element each and examined “evidence” and “challenges” of that element within Holy Name of Jesus. Again, those inputs were presented to the entire assembly. The final event of the day was the development of parish goals for the next 3-5 years. Teams once again brainstormed ideas based on previous discussions on the seven essential elements. At the conclusion of this task, each team posted their goals, and each assembly participant individually voted on their top four goals.

The PPPC used the information from the first assembly day to draft a new mission statement. Careful consideration was made to include as many inputs as possible without making the statement too long. Next the PPPC counted the votes for parish goals, and identified the top 10. Upon close examination of more than 25 goals, the PPPC found many of the goals were similar enough to fall within the top 10. In light of this, the PPPC slightly reworded some of the goals to make them more inclusive. The following is the list of the top 10 goals:

1. To increase parish and community awareness of HNJ ministries and their missions.
2. To bring new members into our parish and create a welcoming atmosphere.
3. To increase our church and community outreach; focusing on the needs of our community and parishioners.
4. To build programs to reach out to diverse races, the alienated, inactive, and unchurched
5. To develop a major portion of available church property to benefit our parish, diocese, and community.
6. To establish a sense of community in our parish by improving communication among parish leaders and with parishioners.
7. To recruit, train, and equip new and returning ministry volunteers who offer their gifts in service to the parish mission.
8. To increase active participation of the parishioners and make the Sunday Eucharist a priority in the life of our parish.
9. To delegate responsibility for implementing pastoral activities to competent persons, offering them support, resources, and regular oversight.
10. To increase spiritual formation opportunities to all parishioners through outreach and education.

The second assembly day was convened on March 10, 2007, and was attended by 55 parish members. The assembly was presented with the new draft mission statement, and allowed time to reflect and discuss in small groups. The small groups presented additional inputs to the larger group and the statement was edited real-time. A consensus was reached on the mission statement and accepted by Fr. Butler. Upon completion of the mission statement, the top 10 goals were presented. In order to lessen the burden on the parish, and to increase the success of attaining the goals, the top ten goals had to be narrowed down to only four goals. This does not mean the other six goals are not necessary, but only that the parish must prioritize the stewardship of the people. Future revisions of the pastoral plan may later include these other goals. After some time in prayer and reflection the assembly participants individually voted for

their top four goals. A tally of the votes clearly showed four goals that stood apart from the other six. Groups were then formed to derive objectives for each of those four goals. These groups spent time brainstorming how best to meet the needs of the parish to achieve these goals.

This plan is a direct result from the inputs from parish members. It is not the focus of any one person's ideas or suggestions, but is reflective of the parish as a whole. This document is meant to be a living document, which will be reviewed and updated to reflect the needs of the parish. This is just the starting point and is expected to grow and change. **May all who look upon this plan be inspired and act upon the call of God to do his work.**

After promulgation, the oversight of this plan will be entrusted to a new Parish Plan Implementation Commission. This new commission shall work with the Pastoral Council to develop methods to monitor how well goals and objectives are met, and provide recommendations for improvements. This plan should be updated at least one-time per year, ensuring the entire parish is included in the process.

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Roman Catholic community united by faith in God, nourished by Jesus in the Eucharist, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We strive to live the Christian mission of peace, service, outreach, and fellowship through love, prayer, evangelization, and ministries so both the human and spiritual needs of our growing parish family and community are always met.

PARISH GOALS

1. To increase parish and community awareness of HNJ ministries and their missions.
2. To increase our church and community outreach; focusing on the needs of our community and parishioners.
3. To develop a major portion of available church property to benefit our parish, diocese, and community.
4. To increase spiritual formation opportunities to all parishioners through outreach and education.

OBJECTIVES TO ATTAIN OUR GOALS

Goal 1: To increase parish and community awareness of HNJ ministries and their missions.

Objective 1: To conduct a semi-annual survey and measure the awareness of parish ministries/activities. Deadline Date: 3/1/08.

Objective 2: To conduct open house community events, and provide literature about available services and facility space for events. Deadline date: 3/1/08.

Objective 3: To identify and explain parish ministries from the pulpit, making the parish more aware of the mission of each ministry and the needs of the ministry. Deadline date: 3/1/08.

Objective 4: To provide welcoming brunches and sponsorships to new parishioners. Deadline date: 8/15/07.

Objective 5: To post all parish ministries within the church, where they can easily be seen, and to create a method to continuously identify ministry needs. Deadline date: 7/1/07.

Objective 6: To challenge parishioners to sign-up for one ministry. Deadline date: 7/1/07.

Objective 7: To create time and talent cards and consolidate contact information. Deadline date: 7/1/07.

Objective 8: To conduct semi-annual recruitment days to enlist ministry volunteers. Deadline date: 10/1/07.

Objective 9: To create and publish detailed information sheets on each ministry. Deadline date: 5/17/07.

Objective 10: To post ministry information on parish website. Deadline date: 9/17/07.

Objective 11: To establish a Publicity Committee. Deadline date 4/17/07.



Goal 2: To increase our church and community outreach; focusing on the needs of our community and parishioners.

Objective 1: To develop a Hispanic outreach committee to organize and promote Hispanic outreach ministries and activities. Deadline date: 6/15/07.

Objective 2: To organize and distribute a climate survey of Hispanic needs (weekly Hispanic Mass, social and educational services). Deadline date: 7/15/07.

Objective 3: To use results of a Hispanic climate survey and develop new ministries and programs (i.e. a weekly Hispanic Mass). Deadline date 9/15/07.

Objective 4: To promote Catholic “Apologetic” awareness and education. Deadline date: 5/15/07.

Objective 5: To establish a bereavement committee in order to coordinate parish services and meet the needs of those in mourning. Deadline date: 6/1/07.



Goal 3: To develop a major portion of available church property to benefit our parish, Diocese, and community (with the permission of the Diocese).

Objective 1: To form a Land Development committee, who would inform the Parish about land development projects and volunteer needs. Deadline date: 5/1/07.

Objective 2: To involve and educate parishioners on plans for land development. Deadline date: 6/10/07.

Objective 3: To consolidate a list of land development plans (examples: Family of God Life Center, Rosary Park, Covered Pavilion, Recreational Facilities, Community Garden, Bathhouse, Playground, and area for large gatherings. Deadline date: 7/1/07.

Objective 4: To form subcommittees to support individual land development projects. Deadline date: 8/1/07.

Objective 5: To ascertain project costs for land development plans. Deadline date: 9/1/07.

Objective 6: To create a timeline for each land development plan. Deadline date: 9/1/07.

Objective 7: To publicize land development plans and determine parishioner support for each project. Deadline date: 10/15/07.

Objective 8: To study and ensure plans will have sufficient support (financial/manpower) for upkeep and maintenance. Deadline date: 10/15/07 - continual review.

Objective 9: To incorporate plans for the support of Head Start requirements. Deadline date: 9/1/07 initial and 9/1/08 final.



Goal 4: To increase spiritual formation opportunities to all parishioners through outreach and education.

Objective 1: To develop and distribute a spiritual formation needs questionnaire. Deadline date: 5/1/07.

Objective 2: To identify programs with most interest and need and generate implementation plans. Deadline date: 6/1/07.

Objective 3: To initiate new spiritual formation services and resources. Deadline date: 1/1/08

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the need for additional parish committees, the PPC recommends for each committee, ministry, or outreach group, a basic structure be used and an information packet be written. The basic structure should include a primary chair or lead representative, along with a deputy or alternate. Positions should be advertised and approved by the Pastoral Council. The chairperson would serve as the single point of contact and the deputy would provide assistance to the chairperson. Each group should develop an information packet including: a description of their purpose, expectations and duties for those who volunteer to support the ministry/group, schedules, meeting locations, current volunteer list (name and phone numbers), and how they support the parish mission statement.

May God bless our new Parish Plan and fill us with his Holy Spirit to inspire and help us act upon his calling.