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The Church of St. Peter is a Roman Catholic faith community who, in the spirit of Jesus Christ, welcomes all people, cherishes the Eucharist, fosters faith formation for all ages, and serves our members and the broader community in justice and charity.

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St. Peter's Long Range Plan Update

LRP, 2010

What should be our mission at St. Peter's Church? What should be our goals for the next four years? Since we can't do everything at once, in what order should we implement important ideas generated from the grass roots? What are we already doing well versus what we still need to incorporate? Answers to these questions are what a long range planning effort ought to provide.

January 17

St. Peter's newest long range planning kicked off on a sunny winter day when the Minnesota Vikings decisively beat the Dallas Cowboys 34-3 to advance to the NFC Championship. That mid-January afternoon at St. Peter's Church set into motion the spiritual launching of our newest long range planning effort.

Of course, the planning had really begun in December, 2009, with the mailing of a survey to every household registered at St. Peter's Church. Two hundred forty-four completed surveys were eventually returned, with noteworthy comments and a plethora of great feedback. If you'd like to view the survey results, they are currently posted on our webpage at www.stpetersrichfield.org.

February 21

Our first working session centered on whether or not there was a need to re-write our current mission statement. Three points for a good mission statement were shared:

- A mission statement should be no more than a single sentence long.
- A mission statement should be easily understood by a twelve year old.
- A mission statement should be

able to be recited by memory at gunpoint.

After much small group discussion and whole group feedback, a consensus was evident that St. Peter's Church should focus on growing the parish, and that the current mission statement should remain unchanged. Great ideas for long term goals evolved, and the session ended as it began—on a positive and engaged note.

March 21

The group who gathered on March 21st brain-stormed in small groups—first considering what else could be done at St. Peter's to welcome all people, then creating new ideas for St. Peter's to serve in justice and charity. A spirited conversation produced a variety of new and innovative ideas—and St. Peter's stayed right on track to begin writing new long range goal statements.

April 18

This group tackled the remaining tenets of our mission statement—cherishing the Eucharist and fostering faith formation for all ages. Once again, terrific small group discussions created thought-provoking ideas. All that remained was to draft new long range goals—to be unveiled May 23rd.

May 23

Pentecost arrived and so did our parishioners! Almost one hundred came to celebrate the rollout of our renewed mission statement and newly-



defined long range goals. Following prayer, refreshments were served—but before kicking back and enjoying an ice cream sundae, attendees first studiously contemplated how best to rank each long range goal.

Rank the Goals

Now is your chance to weigh in on this important step. If you haven't already voted, please use this newsletter to tell us how you would like our goals to be ranked—with number one signifying what you believe to be most important. Place your rankings in the collection basket next Sunday, or bring to the parish office. We want to know what is most important to you!

Welcomes all people

Use numbers 1 through 12, with 1 signifying the goal you believe is most important. (A FOCUS group is defined as a group of parishioners gathered together for an opportunity to freely make comments pertaining to their unique demographic, thus identifying needs that are not currently being met.)

- _____ Analyze Mass experience for different groups—families, seniors, minorities
- _____ Ecumenical outreach
- _____ Exit interviews for departing parishioners/Contact non-participating Catholics
- _____ FOCUS group for different ethnicities
- _____ FOCUS group for disabled
- _____ FOCUS group for elderly
- _____ FOCUS group for singles
- _____ FOCUS group for young families
- _____ Form Mass Greeters group and include training
- _____ Offer a wide variety of events that appeal to inter generational population
- _____ Offer babysitting/nursery service consistently
- _____ Support the newcomers group—St. Pete's Meet N Greet (mentor program)

Cherishes the Eucharist

Using numbers 1 through 13, rank this next set of goals.

- _____ Develop a child care group
- _____ Offer educational opportunities to understand and learn about the Mass
- _____ Expand prayer partners program
- _____ FOCUS group for music
- _____ Form a new musical group for Saturday 4:30 PM Mass
- _____ Form Caregiver program
- _____ Form Grief program

- _____ Increase Eucharistic adoration
- _____ Increase resources for young families at Mass
- _____ Increase rosary opportunities
- _____ Offer Liturgy of the Word for Children at both Sunday morning Masses (9:00 & 11:00)
- _____ Recruit cantors
- _____ Youth/Family Mass or Prayer Service once per month

Fosters faith formation

Using numbers 1 through 6, rank another set of goals.

- _____ Consistent and on-going adult faith formation for increased spiritual development—e.g. small groups like Renew Again/Evangelization, Men's/Women's retreats
- _____ Develop a Bible study focused on the Holy Spirit
- _____ Develop Peer Ministry for post-Confirmation connecting kids of different ages
- _____ Educate parishioners of all ages about the Eucharist and Catholic teaching
- _____ Grow volunteer teams for faith formation
- _____ Keep youth and family programs strong

Serving in Justice and Charity

Using numbers 1 through 6, rank this last set of goals.

- _____ Continue and expand charitable collections and drives
- _____ Continue outreach outside our parish
- _____ Define and educate social justice for parishioners
- _____ Internal outreach: confidentially identify parishioners in need and match them to parishioners who can help—e.g. expand Angel Tree gift program/Back to School Drive to those in need within our parish
- _____ Parish project—e.g. Habitat for Humanity house (some can help build, some can cook and bake, others can pray); expand Loaves & Fishes; help our own elderly with home needs like painting the outside of their home
- _____ Speakers once/quarter

Additional comments:
