

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
IGLESIA CATÓLICA DE SANTA ANA



4057 US 70 Business West Clayton, NC 27520
www.st-annschurch.org

PASTORAL STRATEGIC FIVE YEAR PLAN
PLAN PASTORAL ESTRATEGICO A CINCO AÑOS

2012-2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Parish Mission Statement	4
Parish Values	4
Pastor's Vision Statement	5-6
Financial Environment of the Parish.....	7
Priorities and Goals	8-11

I. PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Responding to God's call to serve Him in our diverse community, in union with the Bishop of Raleigh and the Holy Father, the daily priority of St. Ann Catholic Church is to:

- Proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ by word and deed.
- Celebrate the presence of God through the Eucharist and prayer.
- Build up the body of Christ by welcoming all who worship with us and by seeking new members.
- Respond to the spiritual and material needs of those among us.

II. PARISH PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

Our values are enduring, passionate and distinctive core beliefs. They are guiding principles that never change. Values are why we do what we do and what we stand for. They are beliefs that guide our conduct, activities and goals. Values are deeply held convictions, priorities and underlying assumptions which influence our attitudes and behaviors.

1. Role of the Family - We respect the role of the family and its irreplaceable contribution to the formation of faith and morality. It is through the family that we come to recognize the grace of God in daily living.
2. Community – We love and support one another by caring for the needs of others, especially the poor and the vulnerable.
3. Prayer and Worship - We value our faith-filled prayer and worship, praising God from whom all blessings flow.
4. Growth in Faith - Salvation is a lifetime journey. It is important to us that we continue to grow in faith and to serve as examples of Christian life.
5. Catholic Tradition – We value our identity as Catholics, richly rooted in the teachings of Christ and passed on to us through the Apostles and the Holy Catholic Church.
6. Life and Dignity of the Human Person – We value the life and dignity of every human person, from conception to natural death.

III. PASTOR'S VISION STATEMENT

As I conclude of my fourth year as pastor of St. Ann's, there is much to celebrate. Our parish has grown to over 1,500 households. We have nearly 700 children in our faith formation programs. Our International Food Festival has become a premier event for people across the county. Our Food Pantry and financial aid ministries have helped thousands of county residents in need. Our Ladies Guild, Damas Hispanas, Knights of Columbus Council and Grupo Juvenil are only a few of our outstanding organizations ready to serve both parishioners and the general public. Our Hispanic community has blossomed. These are but a few of our accomplishments.

As I give thanks to God for all we have accomplished, I am also aware that there is much more to be

done. We are in desperate need of an additional building on our campus where classrooms, a fellowship hall and offices can bring us together on many levels that presently are unavailable to us. More staffing to help us meet the growing needs of our parishioners is also required. This will require a stronger financial commitment throughout the parish, a sacrifice I believe we are capable of making.

As pastor, I also believe other challenges lie before us. It is my dream that our parish will one day be on fire with love for the Lord, thoroughly invested in growing in our faith, spreading the Good News of Christ to others and strengthening our sense of community.

As we face the next five years, it will be critical that we invest time, energy and resources to deepen the relationship between our parishioners and the Lord. I dream of a parish where its members have embraced what Blessed John Paul II called "the new evangelization." We are people of mission, not maintenance. But people must first know what the mission is and why it is important. More fundamentally, we must know the One for whom we serve or we will run the risk of serving only ourselves or becoming apathetic. This is what the "new evangelization" seeks to accomplish and is my highest priority as your pastor.

I see evidence that faith could be a higher priority among our members and that our children and youth could be better nurtured in their faith, especially by their parents, their first teachers in the faith.

I want to see a parish where every parent has a personal relationship with Christ and is personally invested in the spiritual welfare of their children. There is a saying, "As go the parents, so go their children." I desire a parish where parents make faith a high priority in their own lives and look for daily opportunities to share that faith with the most precious possession given to them by God, their children.

I would like St. Ann's to develop a stronger bond with our adolescents and young adults. We have taken some important first steps among our Hispanic teens and young adults in the past few years. Our English-speaking teens and young adults also deserve a more dedicated ministry and commitment from the parish to help them be the presence of Christ in an increasingly secular world and to face the challenges that lie before them.

We are blessed to be a multicultural parish with parishioners from nearly 30 countries around the world. We have taken some important steps to unite us in our diversity and will face more challenges in order to grow into a true community and not simply into parallel communities.

I see a parish where parishioners know one another better. As a community of more than 5,000 people, it is impossible to strengthen the bonds among us and to create a network of friendship and support unless we have opportunities to actually interact with one another in smaller settings. It is not easy developing community in a parish spread out over an entire county but this must become a priority. Our parish must have a human face and that human face is discovered in the relationships we develop with one another, both at the parish and in one another's homes.

I know that many parishioners face extraordinary challenges living in today's society. Marriages are in trouble, families are struggling, making ends meet is becoming harder and harder for more and more and hope is declining. Addictions to drugs, sex, the internet and material goods are draining the life out of more and more people. I see St. Ann's as a place where people can find the assistance they need to survive, heal and actually thrive as Christians, both individually and as families.

These are formidable challenges and I believe we can face them and take significant steps in making St. Ann's a stronger community of faith, love, hope and mission. The moment has come for us to step forward in faith. It is my fervent prayer and hope that the implementation of the priorities set out in this Pastoral Plan will achieve this vision for our future.

May God be with us and keep us true to who we are and what we are to be about.

IV. FINANCIAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE PARISH

St. Ann Catholic Church, located in Clayton, NC, is a growing parish in a growing community. Set in rural Johnston County, St. Ann serves as the only Catholic church in the entire county, covering over 792 square miles.

As of June 2011, there were 5,119 individuals enrolled in the parish from 1,573 registered households. Of the individuals enrolled, 48.7% are Hispanic and 51.3% are non-Hispanic. Between 2007 and 2011, the number of registered parishioners has grown at the average rate of about 13% per year.

While the parish is growing, contributions have not kept pace with the growth in membership. In 2005-06 and 2006-07, contributions to the offertory grew at the rates of 19% and 21% respectively. Since 2007-08, offertory has grown at the rate of approximately 5% per year while the number of registered families has increased at the rate of 11% per year during the same time period.

This large Catholic community is served by one parish priest and one part-time deacon. Other staffing is minimal, consisting of four full-time and one part-time paid staff positions. There is no youth minister. There is no minister of liturgy and music, although one is planned in the 2011-12 budget year. Staff is accommodated in modular buildings which have no running water or bathroom facilities.

The only permanent building on-site is the church itself. There are no classroom facilities. Faith formation for the 671 enrolled students is taught in rented space, a cinema complex located nearly 7 miles away in Smithfield, NC. Social gatherings take place in an outdoor pavilion which is exposed to the weather. The only meeting rooms accommodate 10 to 12 people at a maximum, or people can reserve the Cry Room in the church, which can hold perhaps 20 participants. Parking lots are semi-paved.

Representing approximately half of the registered parishioners, the Hispanic population at Saint Ann's is a very diverse one. People from different countries in South America, Central America, North America and the Caribbean are part of this community. They have come to the US with their own culture contributing to the enrichment of the social and religious environment, making it more "catholic," a word that means "universal."

Residents of Johnston County are struggling to pay bills for rent, utilities, food and medical care. The parish has seen a marked increase in the number of people needing assistance from the Food Pantry and Emergency Financial Assistance Ministry. Although these ministries are very successful, demand far exceeds the resources of the parish.

In order to meet the current needs of a young, vibrant and growing parish, one of our goals must be to significantly increase contributions. While increasing contributions for operational and ministerial needs, an aggressive capital campaign must be conducted to pay off the current mortgage and to finance new facilities. The biggest challenge facing St. Ann is to engage and inspire the hearts and minds of all parishioners in supporting the church to the fullest extent of each family's capability. The challenge must be met with gifts of time, talent and treasure from the whole community!

PRIORITIES AND GOALS: *No attempt has been made to rank the priorities in any order. All priorities are important. The future success of St. Ann's parish is dependent on accomplishing all the priorities.*

One: Focus on awakening and deepening our personal relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

Goal 1: Build an understanding of faith; evangelize through formational programs on the faith.

Goal 2: Help parishioners embrace dimensions of spirituality and offer structures that support conversion opportunities.

Two: Promote the participation of youth in all aspects of parish life.

Goal 1: Invite the parish youth groups to determine how they will fulfill this goal. Have them write their own action plans.

Goal 2: Promote the integration of young people into the liturgical, pastoral and ministerial life of the parish.

Goal 3: Hire a full-time youth and young adult minister, preferably bilingual and bicultural.

Goal 4: Create opportunities for young people to enter into healthy relationships of trust and respect with their peers and adults.

Goal 5: Promote the spiritual life of young adults.

Three: Promote the life and dignity of the human person.

Goal 1: Educate parishioners on all aspects of the Church's teaching on the dignity and sacredness of all stages of human life.

Goal 2: Create opportunities for parishioners with special mental and physical needs to more fully participate in the life and ministries of the parish.

Goal 3: Continue to support and increase the participation in Respect Life ministry within our parish.

Goal 4: Create an end-of-life ministry that includes preparation for end-of-life, care for survivors, caring for the sick and terminally ill and bereavement.

Goal 5: Establish initiatives for marriage enrichment that help couples live Christian

marriage authentically

Goal 6: Educate and activate parishioners to become involved in shaping public policy.

Goal 7: Take a leadership position as a parish to prevent the abuse of minors.

Four: Plan for effective stewardship.

Goal 1: Provide formation on stewardship (educate, catechize, especially on the catholicity of stewardship).

Goal 2: Increase participation in parish ministries and their outputs.

Goal 3: Increase/promote financial contributions to the parish.

Goal 4: Benchmark stewardship of other successful parishes and churches (e.g., Diocese of Wichita).

Goal 5: Organize and coordinate the talent pool of the parish.

Goal 6: Recognize and reward contributions of time and talent to the parish.

Five: Meet current needs for facilities, staff and infrastructure and plan for effective growth.

Goal 1: Pay off the existing mortgage.

Goal 2: Construct a building that meets parish needs for educational space, social events and administrative needs.

Goal 3: Staff appropriately for the size and demographics of the parish.

Six: Strengthen commitment to the St. Ann community; invite, involve, bring people together.

Goal 1: Increase awareness of parish life, activities and educational/formational opportunities.

Goal 2: Increase interaction between English-speaking and Spanish-speaking parishioners.

Goal 3: Foster organizational structures that promote the formation of spiritual and

social relationships within the parish.

Goal 4: Increase social interaction among parishioners.

Goal 5: Become a more welcoming community, especially to those who are inactive in their faith.

Seven: Increase outreach to those most in need within the parish and in Johnston County.

Goal 1: Increase parish contribution to the poor.

Goal 2: Continue to expand the ministry for the Food Pantry and EFAM (Emergency Financial Assistance Ministry).

Goal 3: Educate parishioners and increase the ministry to the sick and homebound.

Goal 4: Evangelize the unchurched in Johnston County.

Goal 5: Create a transportation ministry.

Goal 6: Expand prison ministry and educate parishioners about this ministry.

Goal 7: Establish an emergency mobilization group.

Eight: Focus on communications in everything we do.

Goal 1: In order to strengthen our community, utilize social and traditional media to communicate with our parishioners.

Website
Bulletin
Social networks

Goal 2: Provide various avenues for parishioners to express their opinions on parish issues.

Goal 3: Create a communications plan for each Priority in the Pastoral Strategic Plan.