

ST. LAURENCE PARISH PRIORITY PLAN: ENVISIONING & IMPLEMENTATION



Dear Parishioners,

In the past 32 months we have worked diligently to address the most urgent concerns around our parish property. As you all know we have celebrated great accomplishments in this arena – most recently with the reopening and the consecration of our renovated church. While the work inside continues with finishing touches – it is time to begin looking to the most important part of our parish: our people – the Body of Christ!

About one year ago we were presented as a parish with the opportunity to participate in a collaborative pilot program with the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) to chart a course for our parish and tap into the expertise and connections of the leadership consultants at CLI to address the most pressing areas of “parish priorities” here at St. Laurence. We of course joyfully said yes to this opportunity.

The first step in this process was to participate in the Disciple Maker Index survey. You will recall 2 years ago we were able to participate and the responses from our parish members helped to form part of the input that we considered in developing our parish priority plan.

The second step was to solicit the participation of a representative group of the parish for a fixed 6 – 9 month period of processing information about the parish and current trends along with brainstorming and sharing our own hopes and dreams for our parish. During the first six months of last year this dedicated team of parishioners met to envision a purpose and immediate priorities for our parish. Given the demands of the construction projects and the capital campaign I failed to adequately communicate these developments to you at the time they were undertaken; however, now is the moment to remedy that oversight on my part. The bios of this dedicated group of parishioners are being distributed as part of this communication process. They are also available on our parish website at: <https://www.saintlaurencedelco.org/priorityplan>.

The members of this team who graciously dedicated their time to developing the current parish purpose, vision, values, and priority plan were the pastor, Fr. Tom Whittingham, Sr. Regina Matulka, IHM, Pablo León, Thalía León-Guamán, David Ellis, Claudia Jiménez, Maureen Carey, and Verónica Jaime. We were led in this process by our CLI leadership consultant, Linda Banecker. I am incredibly grateful for the hard work and the courageous sharing that all members of this team put forth. We eventually arrived at a draft of a parish priority plan. Their current service is concluded, and we have successfully handed off the plan from those who conceived it to those who will achieve it (by God’s grace!) – the Implementation Team.

As we transition from envisioning to implementation, I want to thank those who have stepped up to be members of the implementation team for St. Laurence. It is comprised of Fr. Tom, Fr. Albanese, Henry Aquino, Claudia Jiménez, and Harry Dietzler. This overall steering team will guide our efforts as a parish toward achieving the goals laid out in our parish priority plan. As is often the case, in beginning to make progress toward these goals, we have already made slight modifications to the goals and priorities to better reflect the always changing reality in our parish.

At this time, I encourage you to look at the parish priority plan for St. Laurence and begin to commit to memory and to prayer the purpose, the values, the vision, and the priorities laid out for our parish. As a family, as One Body in Christ, we are now tasked with working together to reach these goals. While the implementation team is the top-level coordinating group – the actual work where the rubber meets the road will be done by many of you in the pews. In the weeks and months ahead some of you will be asked to become members of teams working on the seven goals in our parish priority plan. I encourage you to be as generous in responding to God’s call as you are able. Together we can truly grow in holiness and soon make progress on our threefold mission of Making Disciples, Communicating Transparently, and Uniting Cultures.

Gratefully in Christ Jesus,
Father Tom