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2009 Parish Plan

Our Parish Mission Statement

The Catholic Community of St. Mary of the Annunciation accepts as its mission the call to evangelization and outreach and to foster a vibrant and welcoming community that is rooted in the Eucharist and the sacred tradition of the Roman Catholic Church.

Through our active participation in the priesthood of the faithful and a responsible stewardship of all God's gifts, we are committed to responsibly and compassionately living out the Gospel in our homes, work and society.

2008 - A Year of Abundant Hope

In 2008 we launched Abundant Hope, our parish vision for the future. At the heart of Abundant Hope is the call of Jesus to share in his mission and ministry – a call to every member of St. Mary Parish. Through Abundant Hope, the Parish was invigorated with a greater awareness of this call to action. We accomplished much:

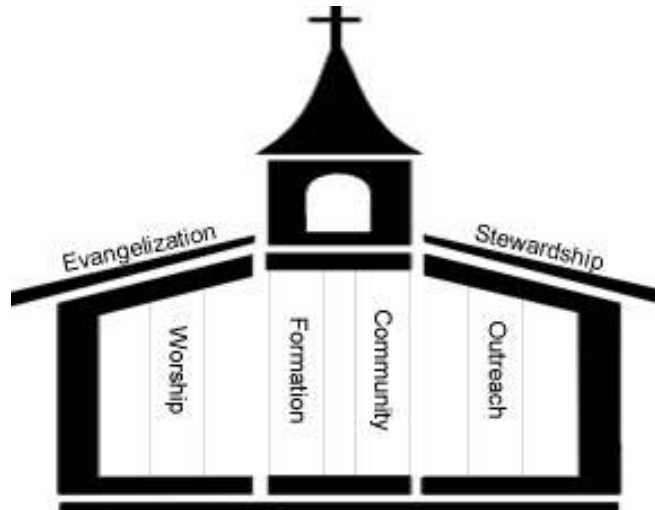
- ◆ Created a dialog within our parish about how we can continue to serve Christ given the needs of the community and challenges of the 21st century.
- ◆ More than fifty parishioners stepped up to further the Abundant Hope vision by implementing a communication plan to reach the 1700 registered families and to share with them our vision and ask them to participate in Abundant Hope.
- ◆ Approximately 500 families pledged over \$2.25 Million to develop a new learning center at St. Mary. While we have additional fundraising to go, the pledges demonstrate a strong outpouring of support in these difficult economic times.

Staying the Course – Abundant Hope in 2009

2008 was only the beginning. In 2009 we will continue to pursue the vision that is Abundant Hope through continued dedication of our more than 60 Ministries. The capital campaign will continue in 2009 through the use of the testimonials either in pre-mass announcements, the bulletin or the use of our web site.

We have over sixty active ministries at St. Mary!

The Four Pillars of our Ministries are:
Worship, Formation, Community & Outreach



✦ **Worship Pillar**

Liturgy Committee ✦ Altar Servers ✦ Music Ministry
Eucharistic Adoration ✦ Sacristan Ministry ✦ Art & Environment ✦ Lectors
Ministers of Care ✦ RCIA ✦ Children's Liturgy of the Word ✦ Ministry of Praise
Family Mass ✦ Sanctuary Saints ✦ Ushers and Greeters ✦ Wedding Coordinators

2008 Accomplishments

Highlights include the dedication and celebration of our new pipe organ, establishment of regular monthly Eucharistic Adoration, and new education opportunities on the Mass (walk through the Mass session and mailing of education materials on the Mass). In addition, a praise and worship night was held in the spirit of Abundant Hope.

Focus Areas for 2009:

- ◆ Perform a comprehensive review of music and continue to development new musical experiences with the goal to increase participation.
- ◆ Continue to offer information sessions and catechesis on the Mass (mailings & CD's) – our ultimate goal is to reach out to as many parishioners as possible to attend and appreciate the Mass.
- ◆ Improve teams for liturgical support at funerals.
- ◆ Revise and re-publish the Parish art and architecture brochure.
- ◆ Have a recognition event for altar servers and social event for them.
- ◆ Consider offering podcasts on the liturgy and special talks or homilies

✦ Formation Pillar

St. Mary School ✦ Religious Education Program (REP) ✦ Little Rock Bible Study
Women's Faith Sharing/Mary's Circle ✦ Adult Education ✦ Fellowship of St. Joseph
Marriage Preparation (FOCUS) ✦ Baptismal Preparation ✦ Sacramental Preparation
Vacation Bible School ✦ Cursillo ✦ Disciples in Mission
Couples for Christ ✦ Lending Library ✦ Adult/Children's Catechumenate

2008 Accomplishments:

Highlights include establishment of the Adult Formation chair and numerous formation opportunities including Scott Hahn (nearly 900 in attendance), fall speaker series, and the addition of the Lighthouse Media CD's in the narthex. We held our 3rd fall retreat for Seniors and fostered small faith sharing groups through "Faith Path" during Lent.

Focus Areas for 2009:

- ◆ Continue our focus on Abundant Hope, a commitment to life long intergenerational learning.
- ◆ Continue to highlight the successes of our Parish school and reach out to the community to market the excellence in the Catholic education it offers.
- ◆ Continue to offer expanded adult formation opportunities through guest speakers and through our in-house resources.
- ◆ Identify a leader of the Mary's Circle ministry.
- ◆ Establish a ministry information kiosk/welcome station in the Narthex of the Church
- ◆ Recruit and train spiritual companions (directors)

✦ Community Pillar

Sunday Hospitality ✦ Welcoming Committee ✦ Pork & Corn Roast ✦ Moms & Tots
St. Mary's Seniors ✦ Women's Club ✦ Parish History & Archives
Challenge ✦ Website/Communications ✦ Marriage Enrichment
Scouting ✦ Mass Childcare ✦ Teen Ministry ✦ Simbang Gabi
Mother/Daughter Tea ✦ Ladies Tea ✦ Bereavement Ministry ✦ Funeral Luncheons

2008 Accomplishments

Highlights include the addition of Greg Entwistle our new Youth Minister, a new parishioner welcome social event was held, and a new communication ministry was established. Fr. Ron participated in 17 neighborhood visits to share the vision of Abundant Hope.

Focus Areas for 2009:

- ◆ Identify a social committee chair and firmly establish the social ministry within the parish; increase social activities for fellowship among parishioners
- ◆ Reestablish the communications ministry.

- ◆ Implement the planned changes for the Pork & Corn Roast that includes a single day event on Saturday.
 - ◆ Continue focus on active welcoming of new parishioners
 - ◆ Increase integration of ethnic groups within the parish.
 - ◆ Fr. Ron plans to continue neighborhood visits, an excellent way to have an informal discussion about our Parish and its future.
 - ◆ Develop the athletic fields south of school
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◆ Outreach Pillar

PADS ✦ St. Vincent DePaul ✦ Evangelization Team
 VISTA Elder Care ✦ LOVE Inc ✦ Sharing Parish ✦ Career Transition
 Respect Life ✦ Meals for Families ✦ Mission Director

2008 Accomplishments:

Highlights include our new programs with sharing Parish, Holy Family, establishment of new Mission coordinator role, and another successful teen mission trip. We also participated in the Catholic Charities New Hope Housing Program.

Focus Areas for 2009:

- ◆ Focus on highlighting the many successful outreach ministries at St. Mary.
 - ◆ With the establishment of the Mission Director position, make new outreach mission opportunities available to Parishioners
 - ◆ Explore opportunities to reach out to members of our larger community that are not parishioners.
 - ◆ Review and possibly redesign the Career Transitions Ministry to better respond to current conditions in society.
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This Plan has been developed as the Pastoral Council's working agenda for 2009 and it is our hope that it reflects the shared vision of our parishioners. Please contact any of the Pastoral Council members for more information and to express your readiness to help us meet these goals with your active participation.

Dan Thompson, President – dmthompson@comcast.net
 Pete Roberts, Vice-President - wproberts@comcast.net
 Dawn Peterson, Secretary
 Jennifer Barnes
 Dustin Zubert
 Don Kekstadt – Emeritus

John Szalinski
 Mary Lou Loomis
 John Philbin
 Jim Scott
 Dave Pepping

This plan can also be found at the Parish website:

Parish Website: www.stmaryfc.org

School Website: www.stmaryfc.org/school/

Abundant Hope: www.stmaryabundanthope.org