

# PROPOSED STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR ST. PIUS X PARISH

## Introduction

A process of strategic renewal is underway at St. Pius X Parish. The process began on June 28, 2016, with an open meeting to consider the future of our parish. A report from this meeting was circulated to parishioners in September and feedback invited. The attached document incorporates the input received to date from the meeting and feedback since then. A foundational statement is provided, vision, core values and guiding principles are identified, and four (4) strategic directions are proposed. Examples of actions which are:

- (a) consistent with our values and principles and
- (b) could be pursued in support of our 4 strategic directions, are provided.

A second open parish meeting will be held on **Monday, October 24, 2016 at 7:30 pm** in the **Parish Hall** to discuss the Proposed Strategic Directions document. Following this meeting, revisions to the document will be made as necessary and the document circulated again to parishioners for feedback. Once feedback has been received and incorporated, the Strategic Directions document will guide the development of formal action plans to support each of the strategic directions.

## Foundational Statement

The parish motto is: "*To restore all things in Christ*". We seek guidance from the Holy Spirit to help us discern a course for our parish which is in accordance with the standards and values of Jesus Christ. We are a parish committed to the pastoral goals and policies of the Archdiocese, energized by Ignatian Spirituality, and a part of the Canadian Jesuits International.

## Vision

St. Pius X Parish is a vibrant and inclusive faith community, committed to:

- (a) fostering greater awareness of God's presence in the world;
- (b) helping individuals to grow in personal relationship with Jesus Christ and
- (c) supporting individuals, groups and communities as they discern and respond to what God is asking of them.

## Values

The core values identified in our consultation processes include:

- Inclusiveness:*** reaching out to, welcoming and including diverse individuals and groups
- Responsiveness:*** being receptive to the changing needs of our parishioners, Archdiocese and our city.
- Accountability:*** accepting responsibility for ethical and sustainable use of our resources in the service of God and our parish community.

## **Principles**

The principles outlined below articulate our desires to realize the vision of our parish community.

**Engagement:** establish/strengthen ways for meaningful involvement by parishioners.

**Support:** organize structures and resources (human, financial and property/assets) to support our key directions.

## **Key Directions**

1. ***Build Relationships:***

Establish/strengthen dialogue and meaningful connections/partnerships with individuals, families, marginalised/vulnerable groups, other parishes in the Archdiocese, religious communities, other faith traditions, members of the broader community.

2. ***Foster Spirituality and Faith Development:***

Assist individuals to discern God's presence in their everyday lives; support life-long faith development.

3. ***Support Social Justice:***

Continue our current initiatives and seek out new social justice initiatives.

4. ***Commit to Sustainability***

Manage our resource responsibly to ensure our ongoing growth within the Archdiocese and St. John's.

**POTENTIAL ACTIONS IN ALIGNMENT WITH OUR PRINCIPALS AND VALUES**

KEY DIRECTIONS	INCLUSION	ENGAGEMENT	SUPPORT
<p><b>Build Relationships</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• dialogue with those who do not regularly attend Mass or may have not felt welcome in church to determine what other types of involvement with the parish would work for them</li> <li>• communal greeting at the beginning of Mass - make Mass more friendly</li> <li>• acknowledge the personal milestones of parishioners - birthdays, anniversaries, baptism, weddings</li> <li>• continue prayer bowl</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• continue with social events after the Sunday, 11 am Mass</li> <li>• offer social events that appeal to younger people, such as hikes</li> <li>• increase our pool of volunteers</li> <li>• reach out to younger and potential parishioners through social media channels</li> <li>• offer a greater variety of music at Mass</li> <li>• continue to reach out to elders in our community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contact surrounding schools to determine if they have needs that our parish could meet</li> <li>• continue and expand our visiting and bereavement efforts</li> <li>• continue to work with and expand relationships with Archdiocese, parishes, Canadian Jesuit International, MUN Chaplaincy, nursing homes, MacMorran Community Centre, Association for New Canadians and neighboring schools.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Foster Spirituality and Faith Development</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• introduce opportunities for personal reflection on the Liturgy of the Word during Mass</li> <li>• invite dialogue/public discussion with other champions of spirituality such as other faith communities, religious communities, meditation groups, etc.</li> <li>• offer a program that explores the intersection between science and religion/spirituality</li> <li>• offer an introduction to discernment program based on Ignatian Spirituality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop and promote opportunities for spiritual growth based on Ignatian Spirituality</li> <li>• explore the use of the program of First Spiritual Exercise as outlined by Fr. Hansen, SJ</li> <li>• develop a young people's program for grades 7-12</li> <li>• continue and expand opportunities to explore the mysteries of our faith (e.g. Wednesday night series)</li> <li>• continue involvement in social justice issues (see section below)</li> <li>• openness to missions, retreats, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• continue to provide spiritual direction and support to key stakeholders, including but not limited to Catholic Christian Organization (CCO), Queen's College, staff and students at St. Bonaventure's College</li> <li>• provide support to lay parishioners who wish to become facilitators for the First Spiritual Exercises</li> <li>• reach out to younger parishioners who no longer attend Mass to determine what type of spiritual direction and support would work for them</li> <li>• continue to provide support for the existing Children's Liturgy programs</li> </ul>

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KEY DIRECTIONS	INCLUSION	ENGAGEMENT	SUPPORT
<p><b>Support Social Justice</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>expand our dialogue with targeted groups that we may have not worked extensively with before, such as the Indigenous communities, new Canadians, LGBTQ, those with mental health issues, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>communicate with our existing outreach programs</li> <li>coordinate efforts with outreach programs of other organizations, religious communities, parishioners, the Archdiocese, other faith communities, social justice organizations, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>develop/coordinate with agencies that offer programs for young people that focus on social justice, such as volunteering, advocacy around environment issues</li> <li>continue our support of the MacMorran Community Centre, St. Anne’s Parish in Jamaica, MaterCare and our Syrian refugee family and Canadian Jesuits International</li> </ul>
<p><b>Commit to Sustainability</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>acknowledge and value the “pieces of the wisdom” that are held by parishioners and insure that their voices are heard in decision making</li> <li>continue to involve parishioners in the development of a strategic plan for the parish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>re-create Parish Council to become more representative of all our parishioners</li> <li>continue to invite and encourage all parishioners to use their talents in the service of the parish.</li> <li>our parish is not a “stand alone” parish. St. Pius X Parish is open to both giving and receiving of pastoral receiving of pastoral ministries of Catholic St. John’s</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify the changing needs of our parishioners (elderly, post-secondary students, new Canadians, etc.) and develop appropriate supports for them</li> <li>support the development of leadership skills in lay persons, especially women</li> <li>develop a succession plan for lay parishioner leadership</li> <li>incorporate feasible green strategies in our parish activities</li> <li>continue to support the Jesuit Apostolate presence in our Parish</li> <li>align and use resources (human and material) in support of key directions for the parish and the Archdiocese</li> </ul>