

Compiled Parishioner Responses Organized by Topic November 5, 2018

Recommended top pastoral priority for the parish during the next one or two years—for Parish Pastoral Council

Liturgy

- General
- Continue and expand to another Mass, perhaps, Liturgy of Word for children.
- We talk about being one yet some sites announce “it is our tradition” – others sing in native language. If we are one it seems the liturgy should be more consistent in all sites.
- First should be greater Eucharistic reverence, particularly beautiful liturgy.
- Focus on making our parish truly one parish (for example, either all churches should invite attendees to pray 3 Hail Marys at the end of the liturgy, or none should).
- **Strategies:**
 - For Eucharistic reverence, we need to be more concerned about glorifying God, less concerned about meeting people’s expectations.
 - Mass schedule provided on radio/tv for non-computer parish members
- Mass schedule
- Mass at St. Peter’s 4pm, Mass at St. Mary’s 5:30pm.
- Look at winter/summer schedule.
- **Strategies:**
 - Maybe Mass times more in line with parishioners’ wants or needs.
 - Please bring back 4pm at Sts. Peter & Paul.
 - Create a winter schedule!
 - Winter Mass schedule in maybe only 2 churches to accommodate snow removal that needs to be done.

Evangelization/Faith Formation

- Evangelization and involving families and youth as the future of church.
- Sr. Sue’s program.
- I would like for us to be able to minister to/visit members of our parish as mentioned by Faith Tarby.
- Evangelization.
- **Strategies:**
 - Sounds like a committee has this (evangelization) going with the “Formed” program.
 - See what other churches of faith do – other denominations are buying closed Catholic churches – especially in Rochester area.
 - Use the tools other Christian churches deploy to rebuild the community.

Building unity in the parish

- Nourish our present parishioners – to stay!
- Helping us truly feel like “one.” Pleasing more/most so collections go up.
- Building the parish as a whole. Volunteer: Pastoral Council, Finance Council, Buildings & Grounds.
- Focus on making our parish truly one parish (for example, either all churches should invite attendees to pray 3 Hail Marys at the end of the liturgy, or none should).
- **Strategies:**
 - Parish – connections.

Holy Family

- Holy Family.
- Better support the school – health, safety, education. Just because we are a not-for-profit doesn't mean we have to lose money.
- Meeting with Holy Family Board (to) address Holy Family.
- **Strategies**
 - Save Holy Family committee.
 - Cultivate the children. Help them to get the best education possible. Get a cat.

Training

- Personal – looking for training for bringing Communion to the home bound.
- Educate parishioners that we are here to minister – not to hold onto places for ministries.

Sex abuse in the Catholic Church

- Get the total abuse problem in the Church behind us.
- **Strategies**
 - Publish a list of all involved (in the abuse problem in the Church), where they are, where they were and action taken.

Recommended top financial/buildings priority for the parish during the next one or two years—for Parish Finance Council

Selling properties

- Selling properties -- It has been many years that this has been a priority. Why hasn't it been addressed in all that time?
- Good job downsizing properties so far!! Sell rental properties: little house north/next to St. Charles Borromeo, Lourdes place on Fairlane.
- Make sure that a roof does NOT fall down when parishioners are inside!
- Offloading properties after careful assessment.
- Sell any buildings that are not used. Lourdes rectory, St. Charles rectory.
- Property.
- Look at downsizing properties.
- Determining which buildings are in the best shape – churches and schools – keep the best and offload the costliest.
- Get out of landlord business. Sell off.
- Properties.
- Dissolution of the excess properties based on serviceability and structural soundness.
- Consolidate buildings.
- Reduce cost – “Eliminate properties.”
- A definitive plan should be made for off-loading real estate, with appropriate consideration for an end state of beauty but lower cost.
- Committee to prioritize the sale of unnecessary real estate with timetables.
- **Suggested strategies**
 - Strategic plan set up to get these properties sold. Get more people involved in getting word out, asking real estate people who are parishioners to help with marketing these properties.

- Sell all rented properties (which are not paying rent anyway). Sell OLL to anyone who wants the property for any reason. Sell convent at OLL. All vacant property (!) has to go if not with a church building.
- Get them (unused bldgs.) cleaned out and put on market!
- Survey each of the properties with professional inspectors and choose those properties that would best serve the needs of the parish.
- Put For Sale signs up; be real about what we have to do; the money is not there. That's the bottom line. We are tired of talking about it. Nothing ever gets done. It is so frustrating.
- People are going to be angry but \$ is being wasted. It will take time but it should be looked into very SOON!!!
- Hire a qualified realtor (commercial). Make repairs and sell the churches and other buildings. Consolidate and right-size.
- Complete evaluation of ALL properties.
- For real estate, we should have a committee to make a plan. Committee should be Fr. Scott (pastor), Mike Tamera (church architect) a finance expert and a real estate expert.
- Recruit real estate, property developer business persons who are part of the parish and could give advice.

Cost Cutting

- To continue to work toward cost cutting – as difficult as it may be. God will be with us.

Church repairs

- Just a suggestion...for church repairs – possibly ask parishioners to volunteer to help to offset costs...like lawn care, snow removal, etc.

Priorities needing both Pastoral Council and Finance Council involvement

Reducing number of churches

- We have known for how many years that we need to reduce the number of churches? Why are we still only talking about it? All that has been done is talk. We have done all the studies, run all the numbers, etc. It is long past the time for action.
- There seems to be a need to establish a date by which the # of churches needed and which ones is determined.
- I agree with Guy Amisano – top priority should be getting down to 2 churches.
- Consolidate churches.
- Get the financial house in order by selling excess properties (perhaps stripping them first), and using the proceeds to improve/upgrade/modernize the 2 worship sites that remain (obviously need a solid plan and timeline to get to 2 worship sites).
- Soon enough we will be down to one priest – and we'll still have all these churches, at this rate.
- It sounds like the buildings have been toured and the needs are known. Now is the time to bite the bullet and close worship sites.
- **Strategies:**
 - My recommendation: KEEP St. Charles – one of our best worship sites. Sell Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Short term: only use 2 or 3 churches for winter Masses.
 - Pastoral Council and Finance Council – ongoing truthful communication. Informed (can't read next word) decisions.
 - DON'T SELL ST. CHARLES – our only decent property. It needs A/C but otherwise it's our best worship site. I'm not saying because I'm a "St. Charles" person. I'm actually NOT a St. Charles person. We need to get real.

Other Comments

- Gotta fix these problems – no matter what it takes. Figure and pray for increased attendance and commitment.
- I'm a helper, not an organizer.
- I'll do what I can. I'm not good with money or figures. I'm good with people. I've been an RN in Elmira for 35 years. Let me know what I can do. I'd like to be on the safety committee – I'm an RN with AED experience, also emergency room. I would also like to be on social ministry.
- I'm sorry, I don't have a suggestion, but surely collections will go up, if parishioners are happy.
- Task forces.
- Holy Family – what is the religion component? Teachers' qualifications?
- This has been a most frustrating evening. None of these problems are new – they have been obvious for many years. Sell anything you can! I'm not sure I will continue to contribute (to) this fiasco. Please make decisions. Don't say nothing at this time is for sale!