

parish transformation update

Transformation: The Mission Narrative

One of the tasks of the Parish Transformation Team was to compose a Mission Narrative that put forth a spiritual vision for our parish. The narrative conveys our aspirations and explains how our dreams for the future emulate Christ's mission. The document acts as a blueprint for what we feel we are called to do as Jesus' disciples and is meant to be a testament that serves to inspire us well into the future.

It was important that this narrative reflect the outpouring of thoughts, ideas, and feelings that were articulated by team members in the weeks that we met. The narrative is meant to capture the spirit and passion that emerged as we engaged in these heartfelt dialogues that focused on how to make our parish more vibrant, welcoming, and inclusive. The narrative begins:

We, the parishioners of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, feel called to reach beyond ourselves, to walk unfamiliar paths, and to sow new seeds in order to grow a more engaged and inclusive community where all feel welcomed and valued as members of the body of Christ.

We realized through our discussions that everyone is not at the same place on their faith journeys. We also acknowledged the need to bring our multi-generational parish together:

Our hope is to engage all of our parishioners, meeting them where they are, listening to their concerns, and inviting them to a deeper relationship with Our Lord. We desire to create a greater vibrancy in our parish by linking and responding to all of our generations. Let us break down the walls of separation, embracing one another as we celebrate our diversity.

It was also important that we acknowledge those things that make our Parish special, our Pearls of Great Price. We wanted to celebrate our rich history and our many gifts:

Our Lady of Perpetual Help is a multi-generational parish with a rich history of over one hundred years. We are blessed with an excellent parish school and Religious Education Program. Our adult parishioners are also offered educational programs that deepen their understanding and enrich their spiritual lives. The many and varied ministries we offer have helped to build a spiritual community that gives of its time, talent, and treasure to our parish and beyond. Yet, even in light of our Pearls of Great Price, there is a hunger for a greater understanding of our sacred Liturgy and of our role as life-long disciples of Jesus. Let us strengthen our Catechesis to meet the needs of our diverse population, respecting one another's journeys of faith and showing sensitivity to one another's struggles.



The job of the narrative is not to set forth concrete actions or goals, but, instead, is meant to be a springboard to the future, where this document will remind us of the kind of church we want to be. In the March 5th bulletin, we will examine the remainder of the Mission Narrative.