

Transformation: Living Christ's Mission Today

Mission Narrative, Part 2

Last week's bulletin covered the first half of our Mission Narrative. This week, we will discuss the second half, which begins with our desire to acknowledge those on the periphery. We want to reach those who no longer attend Mass, those who feel they were let down by the church, and those who may be looking for a path to return. Our parish wants to be welcoming, a place that offers a community of brothers and sisters in Christ:

Let us acknowledge those who hover on the periphery, feeling that they are neither heard nor understood. And, as we were told to, "love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor" Rom 12:10, let us discover ways to personally invite, warmly welcome, and joyfully engage all of our brothers and sisters. We aspire to be an oasis for those who wander in the desert—those thirsting for a relationship with God. As Jesus instructed us, "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" John 13:34, let us cultivate, grow, and enrich the Communion in our parish, becoming one family gathered in the open arms of Jesus.



We also wanted to recognize and honor Our Lady, who is the patron Saint and guiding light of our Parish. Our Lady of Perpetual Help is always with us, the intercessor between us and her Beloved Son:

Let us be inspired and guided by Our Lady, who is our loving patron and our guiding light. May Our Lady's quiet strength and abiding love be a model for us to follow as we move forward on our path of transformation. Mary's faith allowed her to respond joyfully to God's call. Let us have the faith of Mary and not be afraid of where God calls us even if it involves change.

Our Mission Narrative concludes by once again stating our desire to be inclusive and to acknowledge our shared unity as the Body of Christ. The focus of our vision is to strengthen our Catechesis, defined as a process of education that deepens our relationship with Christ and his Church; and to create Communion that comes from forming a genuine Catholic Community in solidarity with Christ.



We must work cooperatively to bridge our generations, discover common ground, and celebrate our shared membership in the Mystical Body of Christ. We pray for the courage to dream and to act boldly in order to discover new ways of working together to seek the lost, to invite the outsiders, to welcome all, and to recognize and to celebrate everyone's gifts. Let us acknowledge that the best Catechesis is exemplified in our actions—how we live and model the life of Christ and his message of love and inclusion. May our parish be one where Communion and Catechesis are reciprocal—each enriching the other. May our vision be one of bridging the gap between the generations and building in the words of our pastor a "familial partnership where everyone is valued."

Pope Francis in The Joy of the Gospel, writes that the Holy Spirit creates "a unity which is never uniformity but a multifaceted and inviting harmony." Our dream is that everyone who enters our doors feels welcome and that the spirit of welcoming leads to a profound sense of belonging.

We hope that our Mission Narrative will be a blueprint for the future, a catalyst for action, and a living document that guides us well into the future.

Parish Transformation Initiative: Catechesis

Join Us in Prayer...

For our brothers and sisters in Christ who are leading and participating in the Hearts Afire Marian Consecration program, may their hearts be set on fire with love for our Lord Jesus Christ and may this love spread to others who desire to become closer to Jesus. Sixty-five OLPH parishioners have begun a 33-day preparation for consecration to Jesus through Mary, which will take place at 8:30 Mass on Saturday, March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord. Thank you for keeping them in your prayers!

