

St. Anne Catholic Church
Seal Beach, California

Pastoral Plan 2023

Parish Bulletin Article for 23 April 2023

ST. ANNE PASTORAL PLAN 2023

With trust in God and hope for the future of St. Anne's, I am pleased to announce Pastoral Plan 2023. It is the fruit of the prayers and collaborative efforts of the Envisioning Team, including Fr. Al Baca, Juli Enriquez, Lorraine Fiori, Jaya Krishnan, Donald Miller, Marie Palladini, Doug Stephen, Andrew Talley, and myself. We are grateful to Jim Luisi, a consultant from Catholic Leadership Institute, who guided us in this process.

Its proximate beginning was the Disciple Maker Index Survey of 2021, in which many of our parishioners participated. However, the ultimate beginning of our Pastoral Plan was the Great Commission, in which Our Lord Jesus Christ commanded his disciples to "Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them ... [and] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28:18-20).

The idea that we are called to make disciples, or be missionary disciples, is, at its core, as ancient as the Church. Perhaps in some places and times, one might have thought that the faith and its values so permeated the Church and civil society such that sharing the faith, or being a missionary was superfluous. That is not the case here and now.

As a Parish, we will work on 4 Priorities that are defined in the overview later in this bulletin. It is encouraging to know that the values that are strong now for our Parishioners, including prayerfulness, faith in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist as well as a commitment to community, are a solid foundation for our successful implementation of the Plan.

Confident that Christ is with us and that the Parishioners of St. Anne's will answer the call to make our parish even stronger, I encourage you to learn more about our plan and to be involved in its implementation.

In Christ,

Fr. John

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GREAT COMMISSION: *Then Jesus approached the eleven disciples and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”* [Matthew 28:18-20]

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the parish family of Saint Anne exist to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, which leads us:

- to live, as Jesus did, a life of prayer, service and charity;
- to be a welcoming parish;
- to journey with one another on our pilgrimage to Heaven.

VISION STATEMENT

We see a supportive community of disciples of the Lord, celebrating the Eucharist together, sharing the Gospel that transforms lives, and through our prayers and action, saving our souls—and the souls of others—for the Kingdom of God.

PARISH PRIORITIES

Enhance Sunday Mass Engagement

Definition: All Sunday Masses, including the Saturday Vigil Mass, are our community’s active celebration of the Eucharist, the source and summit of our life in Christ. This priority includes enhancing the quality and beauty of the celebration, homilies, music, song, and hospitality at the Sunday Mass.

Rationale: This priority is our response to the parish’s expressed desires in the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) Survey of March 2021, as well as at follow-up interviews with 43 parishioners in May 2022, to seek an enhanced relationship with our Lord and with our community as we celebrate at Mass the unique sacrament of the Eucharist that Jesus gave to His Church. Approximately one-third of the survey respondents indicated their Mass experience could improve in areas such as homilies, hymns, and hospitality.

Desired Outcomes

- Well prepared and thought-provoking homilies that open up the Word of God and our Catholic faith, as we thirst for more, inspiring us to witness to our faith through our actions and words.
- Music in the liturgy, both instrumental and vocal, that lifts up the hearts and minds of the people to God, inviting them to more active participation in the singing.

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- From the time of arrival at the parish for Sunday Mass, until leaving the community, existing and returning parishioners, as well as new inquirers, are welcomed with warm hospitality.

Promote Spiritual Growth and Faith Formation

Definition: Ongoing Catholic faith development is a cornerstone to a vibrant parish. St. Anne's will enable people to encounter and develop a personal relationship with Christ and His Church during Mass and through our various faith formation ministries and programs.

Rationale: The DMI survey reported that 36% of the respondents are growing in their faith but want to grow more and another 12% are stalled or in a period of spiritual decline. Today there are five different generations present in our parish. Each age group has unique needs which should be understood and addressed. To be fulfilling the mandate of Christ and our Catholic faith, we must first journey in faith together.

Desired Outcomes

- Member of our parish are equipped to have conversations about their faith with others.
- Parishioners gain a clear understanding of their life's purpose.
- More people find the peace and joy of having a personal relationship with Jesus.

Become Missionary Disciples

Definition: Through Baptism we are called to follow Jesus, and by sharing our faith with family, friends and neighbors, we can help others and ourselves grow in relationship with Him. At St. Anne's this means forming people as Missionary Disciples, so that parishioners can have the knowledge and confidence to share their faith with others.

Rationale: The Missionary Discipleship priority is our response to the parish's answers in the DMI Survey of March 2021, "*where am I in my journey with Christ?*" and "*sharing my personal witness story.*" St. Anne's DMI results in this area are well below average for parishioner experience, but with scores that indicate a significant opportunity for turnaround. Specifically, in the DMI survey, Missionary Discipleship was identified as both a need and an opportunity for parish growth, with only 33% of the respondents feeling the parish teaches them to share their personal stories, and less than half of the respondents are comfortable sharing the story of Jesus.

Desired Outcomes

- Members of the parish are formed as agents of evangelization.
- Parishioners capitalize on opportunities to share their personal witness story with others so they too can grow in their relationship with Jesus and His Church.

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- Members of our community are willing and excited to communicate the story of Jesus so others can hear His message and learn of God's love.

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Provide a Positive Parish Experience

Definition: Parish Experience focuses specifically on welcoming new and existing parishioners with the intention of nurturing a sense of belonging at St. Anne's Church. This would include hospitality to help people feel connected, and fellowship to encourage social engagement with the parish community.

Rationale: Parish life is at the heart of Catholic life. With a focus on the Parish Experience at the forefront, parishioners feel welcomed and part of the St. Anne's Church community; where one experiences support and encouragement in their personal faith journey and quest to become a disciple of Christ. From young families and children, young adults, and older adults, an enhanced Parish Experience will draw parishioners back to Mass, lead to greater participation in the Sacraments, as well as parish activities and ministries.

Desired Outcomes

- Be a welcoming and engaging parish.
- Enhance ministry support and overall communications to engage new and existing parishioners so they can become actively involved in our faith community.
- Provide additional opportunities to build fellowship and support the needs of our community and the broader community.

WHAT IS A MISSIONARY DISCIPLE?

A missionary disciple of Jesus Christ is one who has experienced God's saving love and accepted the personal call to repentance and growth. The life of a disciple is never perfect and never finished. Like the first followers of Christ, on-going conversion opens the soul to redemption, hope and peace. We share what we love. This is how the disciple becomes a missionary: living life in Christ by the way we believe and the choices we make. As missionary disciples, we partner with Christ in the salvation of souls.

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OUR ENDURING VALUES & BELIEFS

Parish Value: *Knowing Our Faith*

Definition: We are a people that know the truth of Jesus Christ and understand our Catholic Faith.

We live this value when we:

- trust in the Lord with all our hearts.
- study the Bible and learn the traditions and teachings of the Catholic Church.
- continue to be formed in our faith, being strengthened as a community of believers and deepening our relationship with Christ.

Parish Value: *Prayer*

Definition: Every day, each of us is called to spend personal time with Jesus, who loves us.

We live this value when we:

- embrace and encourage a deep relationship with our Lord through daily prayer.
- are intentional about praying with our family during the week.
- accept our responsibility to educate others and provide them opportunities to participate in and cultivate a more fruitful prayer life.

Parish Value: *Sharing Our Faith*

Definition: We are a people of faith who help others follow Jesus through shared spiritual growth and living according to His word.

We live this value when we:

- take the initiative to make prayer and worship accessible to all age groups.
- encourage others to participate and share in the Sacramental life.
- share our personal faith journey with others.

Parish Value: *Fostering Community*

Definition: We believe in supporting and enriching the lives of one another through our Catholic faith, which is the firm foundation of our community.

We live this value when we:

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- are a welcoming community that strives to support one another both spiritually and socially.
- promote appealing parish-wide events to expand the participation of all, especially young families.
- invite and encourage all to become involved at St. Anne's in serving our local community.

Envisioning Team

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With special thanks and admiration for Jim Luisi, Consultant, Catholic Leadership Institute.