

St. Katharine Drexel Planning Committee Report

I. Background

On March 20 - 21, 2015, thirty five leaders from St. Katharine Drexel parish gathered to prayerfully review the mission of the parish, talk about the current realities and to recommend priorities for the future of the parish. Present were Fr. Jerry pastors, members of the pastoral council, finance council, staff and representatives of key parish organizations. The session was facilitated by Mark Mogilka, from the diocesan offices utilizing information gathered by a parish planning committee. What follows is a draft of a brief report of the key recommendations made by the planning committee for presentation to the pastoral council and pastor for implementation.

II. Mission Statement Update

“To *continue* the mission of Jesus through prayer service and sharing”

Note: previous parish mission statement began with words “To *advance* the mission...,”

III. Ministry Priorities

Priority One – Outreach growth and engagement of especially youth, young adults, as well as KCSS and adults – all ages

Potential Brainstormed Actions

1. Hire youth apprentice
2. Intergenerational buddy system with activities
3. Discard classroom model of Faith Formation
4. More teaching of saints and great people of church
5. “Renew 2015/2016” for families
6. Theology on tap/wine bible night
7. Mentoring/jobs
8. Skills projects woodworking/kitchen skills/scrapbooking
9. Family game night
10. Fishing/hunting/Outdoors camp
11. Dances

Priority Two – Welcome people back to the parish through personal contact and other means thereby building the community

Potential Brainstormed Actions

1. Welcome people back
2. Personal contact – break down barriers
3. Love your neighbor program – interact with your neighbor that is a member who isn't attending mass or all neighbors?
4. Rosary walk through a neighborhood – monthly
5. Walk from St Mary's and St Aloysius
6. Cook out at parish
7. Brochure of upcoming events
8. Newsletter
9. Fun Run Walk
10. Personal contact with trained individuals
11. Identify those not attending or not giving
12. Develop a list of why's (why not coming)
13. List of changes needed in our church
14. Kids' activities – Sunday School
15. Personally deliver parish information (block area)
16. Weekly events – non religious community events on location – Sunday School.

Priority Three – Outreach to the greater Kaukauna community – ask the question – if St. Katherine's were not here – what difference would it make to neighborhood?

Potential Brainstormed Actions

1. Work Groups
 - a. Habitat for Humanity
 - b. Adopt a highway
 - c. Fox Valley Mission (Local)
2. Craft night
 - a. Scrapbooking
 - b. Quilting
 - c. Woodworking
3. Publicity for St Katharine Drexel
4. Bible Vocation for all – not just Catholic and St Katharine Drexel
5. Free outreach
 - a. Thanksgiving meal
 - b. Soup supper
 - c. Spaghetti dinner
6. Community help (home repairs, lawn care, repairs – have T-shirt)
7. Up marketing – show the good things that we do. TV, paper, face book, post it
8. Point of Life Issues – offer classes
9. Parenting/Support
10. Finance (college/end of life)
11. Bereavement
12. Educating all/Inviting all
13. Health and Wellness – 5K, etc
14. Expand current programs (care ministry/social programs)

IV. Facility Use

In light of the following;

1. The 2010, parish planning process that had as one of its priorities “To further study the feasibility and work out a plan over time that would help SKD move to having one primary worship site.”
2. Input from parishioners in September 2014 via a 4X6 Card Survey at all masses encouraging the parish to

Rent/ Close St. Als (56 replies)
One site – no new church (47 replies)
One site – St. Mary’s (38 replies)

3. The clear majority of participants at the March 2015 SKD Leadership Summit affirming a recommendation to close and sell the St. Al site

The planning committee recommends;

1. That further research be done to establish a realistic plan for the closure and sale of the property at the St. Al site.
2. That a plan be developed to insure that the proceeds from the sale of the St. Al property be utilized for the following purposes
 - a. Development of a strong faith formation program and the provision of a facility capable of supporting it at the St. Mary site
 - b. Depending on funds available, consideration should also be given to the creation of a parish welcoming center, improved space for parish offices and meeting space.
3. That the St. Francis, Hollandtown church site continue to be maintained and utilized for the foreseeable future and that the cemetery be maintained in perpetuity.
4. That following a review of this draft proposal by the parish Pastoral Council and a review at an open town hall meeting of parishioners, that the parish planning committee, be asked to immediately begin the development of a detailed plan for the implementation of these facility use recommendations by no later than December 31, 2016.