

NATIVITY OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

STRATEGIC PLAN

2015-2017

# OVERVIEW

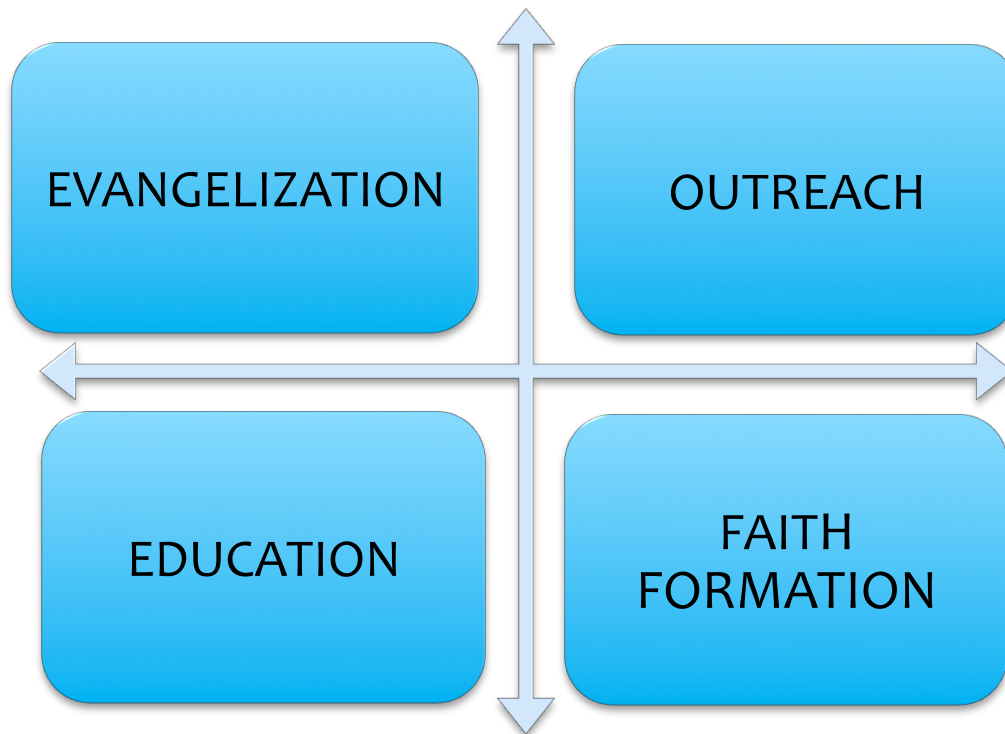
The Parish Council, with the active encouragement and involvement of Msgr. Fred Leising, developed a Five-Year Parish Strategic Plan for the period 2013-2017. Based on the implementation of the first two years of the plan, the Parish Council has refined and restructured the plan for its last three years, 2015-2017. The slides in this presentation cover key components of the revised plan.

We hope and pray that you find these priorities and goals important and energizing. We invite you to work to help make them a reality. Without your involvement, in the end the strategic plan will be just a piece of paper. You can help bring it to life. We invite you to be part of the action.

# PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH  
IS A ROMAN CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY.  
CENTERED AND FORMED BY THE EUCHARIST, WE  
SEEK TO LEARN AND LIVE THE GOSPEL AND TO  
LOVINGLY GROW THROUGH SERVICE TO ONE  
ANOTHER AND TO ALL GOD'S PEOPLE.

# FOUR PRIORITY AREAS



# EVANGELIZATION

Evangelization is “a call to each person to deepen his or her own faith, have confidence in the gospel, and possess a willingness to share the gospel... we want to let our inactive brothers and sisters know that they always have a place in the church and that we are hurt by their absence... we want to help them see that, however they feel about the church, we want to talk with them, share with them, and accept them as brothers and sisters.”

Source: U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

# OUTREACH

Outreach encompasses the identification and response to needs in our parish and the community, as well as working for social justice, which is “social change that is focused on systems and institutions... to transform policies to be more responsive to human needs” through advocacy efforts “directed at the root causes of human suffering, not the immediate symptoms.”

Source: Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis

# EDUCATION

Education is the process of learning. It starts with understanding and identifying the way people learn, the stage of their development, and their readiness to learn. It involves a stimulating curriculum, appropriate instructional strategies, assessment of the learning and adjustment of the learning process. The goal of education is to develop independent learners who will apply their learning, problem solving and thinking skills to their lives.

# FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation starts with evangelization, assessing people's understanding of their faith, and knowing how to reach out to them. It is essential to offer a variety of opportunities for people to learn about and experience their faith, thus developing a personal relationship with Jesus in and through being a member of the body of Christ, His Church. People will not practice their faith if they do not understand and feel it. Faith Formation must employ an array of best practices of instruction and presentation that both instructs and engages our parish community.



# INTERNAL GOALS

1. Increase the number of parishioners actively engaged in the parish community and participating in their faith by creating a sense of togetherness, engagement, learning and shared spiritual growth.
2. Increase intergenerational awareness and participation among parishioners in NBVM's existing outreach and evangelization ministries.
3. Increase communication and collaboration among parish staff and parishioners.

# INTERNAL GOALS Cont.

4. Determine the NBVM community's needs based on an understanding of our diverse characteristics; Discern ways parishioners' talents could be utilized to meet the NBVM community's needs.
5. Explore improved ways to support the faith formation of the parish's youth and adults, including possible alternatives to the current classroom model for youth and program offerings for adults.
6. Work with the Educational Advisory Council and the Board of Limited Jurisdiction as they develop a strategic plan for the future of the Nativity of Mary School.

# EXTERNAL GOALS

7. Strengthen and develop NBVM policies and practices to welcome all of God's people into the NBVM faith community.
8. Attract and welcome new or returning members of the parish and the Church in a way that helps them to more deeply and meaningfully experience faith in their lives and in community.
9. Create a stronger connection of service and charity through greater awareness of and participation in parish social justice and advocacy ministries.
10. Become a local leader in the adoption of shared services, with parishes in the Buffalo diocese and other community and faith-based organizations located in close proximity to NBVM's facilities, including exploring shared services among area schools to position NBVM as a major regional asset.

# NEXT STEPS

- Work with the Pastor and Parish staff as they identify activities related to the Strategic Plan goals, including target dates, staffing, needs and measurements of progress.
- Provide support to the Pastor and Parish staff in the areas of Communications & Technology, Human Resources, Financial Resources and Diocesan Resources.
- Follow Parish staff activities and monitor measurements of progress.
- Share work and progress on the Strategic Plan with parishioners.