



Diocese of Gary
Most Reverend Donald J. Hying
St. Mary-Crown Point
Reverend Patrick Kalich, Pastor

Ecclesial Area:

Evangelization

SMART Goal:

Establish at least one new small church community each year.

Priority:

Develop and launch a new set of small church communities (Evangelization)

SMART Goal Rationale:

Small church communities represent a proven practice through which to engage adults in a deeper experience along their journeys as disciples of Jesus Christ. They can thus help the parish respond to the hunger for faith-enriching experiences expressed by members of our community.

Ecclesial Area: Evangelization

SMART Goal:

Host one "Welcome Gathering" for new members each calendar quarter.

Priority:

Develop and launch quarterly "Welcome Gatherings" for new parishioners (Evangelization)

SMART Goal Rationale:

New members of the parish report that it can often be challenging to integrate themselves into the full life of the community. Quarterly gatherings welcoming new members can help meet this need.

Ecclesial Area:

Evangelization

SMART Goal:

Recruit a viable cohort of adults each year to participate in a parish-based "Coming Home" program.

Priority: Develop and launch a "Coming Home" initiative. (Evangelization)

SMART Goal Rationale: According to the National Catholic Reporter, one in ten Americans is a former Catholic. If former Catholics were counted as a distinct denomination, it would be the 3rd largest such group in the USA, following Catholics and Baptists. We have a genuine responsibility to reach out to our estranged brothers and sisters.

Ecclesial Area:

Evangelization

SMART Goal: Engage highly recommended speakers to address topics pertaining to Discipleship in an open lecture or conference format. Adults in the parish will be invited at the beginning of the Advent and Lenten seasons. Develop complementary sessions appropriate for children to be hosted simultaneously with the sessions provided for the adults.

Priority: Focus topics addressed in the parish's Advent and Lent events on Discipleship.

SMART Goal Rationale: During our Mission 150 process, parishioners expressed a clear desire to learn more about their faith. Through our annual Advent and Lent Day Programs, the liminal experiences of Advent and Lent have long provided opportunities for this kind of catechesis at St. Mary's.

Ecclesial Area:

Sacraments

SMART Goal: Over the course of the next three years, intentionally review the mix of public prayer forms and other expressions of worship hosted by St. Mary's and add, augment, amend, or retire particular public prayer forms and expressions of worship, including outdated liturgical music as deemed appropriate.

Priority: As part of a larger effort to more intentionally review the parish's prayer life, St. Mary's leadership team will consider a select set of practices designed to complement the rich mix of prayer forms and other expressions of worship already embraced at St. Mary's.

SMART Goal Rationale: We have complemented the celebration of the Eucharist with a robust mix of worship opportunities (e.g. Friday Night Novenas, Eucharistic Adoration, Contemplative Prayer, etc.) all designed to foster individual and community wide relationships with Jesus Christ. Our pastor and leadership teams have reviewed this mix of opportunities on an informal basis from time to time. Looking ahead, we have recognized the need for a more intentional and reflective discernment process in order to better determine where God might now be inviting us in this regard.

Ecclesial Area: Social Teaching

SMART Goal: Recruit a minimum of five Millennials each year to ministries identified as "Gateway Ministries" at St. Mary Parish.

Priority: Invite Millennials in a more intentional way into key ministries at St. Mary Parish (Social Teaching 3).

SMART Goal Rationale: Research shows the Millennials tend to engage in volunteer activities differently than members of Gen X, Baby Boomers, or traditional generations. They prefer experiences that are hands-on, communal, and episodic in nature. Several of St. Mary's ministries reflect these characteristics (e.g. God's Groceries and Habitat for Humanity). They may thus represent "Gateway Ministries" for millennials, many of whom report a tenuous attachment to the Church.

Ecclesial Area:

Discipleship

SMART Goal:

Using Strengthfinders as a foundation, engage at least 250 parishioners in a sustained reflection on their essential giftedness and what this might mean in terms of their praying, serving, and sharing as faithful disciples of Jesus.

Priority:

Develop and launch a "Strengthfinders" initiative at St. Mary Parish.
(Discipleship/Formation)

SMART Goal Rationale:

Substantially informed by our Mission 150 experience, St. Mary's Grateful Heart Initiative encompasses a wide variety of programs processes, all of which are intended to invite parishioners into a deeper experience of discipleship through praying, serving and sharing. Helping parishioners appreciate their essential giftedness has been identified as a cornerstone to this multi-year effort. Our Grateful Hearts Council has adopted Strengthfinders, a proven diagnostic tool developed by the Gallup organization, for this purpose.