

STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

LITURGY

OVERALL GOAL

"To place vibrant worship of God in the Eucharist at the center of our parish life"
From the Mission Statement

CURRENT SCENARIO

Liturgy at St. Ignatius is the center of parish life. On an average Sunday there are approximately 2000 people who come from near and far because of the quality of liturgical celebrations. The beauty of the church, the music, preaching and overall style and grace of the liturgy receive praise from all quarters. There is a high level of participation by lay people in liturgical ministries. There is also a good variety of liturgical style to meet the needs of a diverse population.

Although the liturgies that are celebrated in the Lannon Chapel create community, they are often over-crowded. Those in the upper church mitigate against the creation of community and active participation in the rites of the Church. Despite the large number of volunteers at certain liturgies, there are others that do not have a strong volunteer base. The ministry of hospitality is beginning to develop but is a critical piece of development for the future. We need to encourage more and more of our youth to take active roles in the liturgical ministries available to them.

GOAL ONE: RENOVATIONS

Create and implement design changes for celebration of Worship

OBJECTIVE ONE:

Execute an architectural design for renovation of the upper church by April 2002.

ACTION ONE: Check out available resources on church renovation

- Consultation of liturgical Architect Richard Vosko for education and discussion with parishioners (completed)
- Presentation on liturgical renovation by liturgist Bruce Morrill SJ (completed April/May 2001)
- Visit Our Lady Help of Christians with Rev. Walter Cuenin (completed June 2001) 50 parishioners in attendance

ACTION TWO: Commission designs for the liturgical space

- Commission the architectural firm of Peterson and Griffin to create possible design alternatives for the liturgical space (completed September 2001)
- Consultation with architect, Tom Slon SJ, for input on design plans (completed October 2001)
- Hold feedback sessions on first design with liturgy commission, consultant Bruce Morrill SJ and interested parishioners (completed November 11, 2001)
- Consultation with Archdiocesan Office of Worship
- Design completed and approved by April 2002
- Description of work with designs ready for Capital Campaign beginning April 2002

ACTION THREE: Undertake fund raising and renovation work

- Raise the necessary funds for the renovation through the Archdiocesan Capital Campaign (joint Campaign) (September-November 2002)
- Plan for sanctuary work to begin June 2003 and to be completed by September 2003) (Alternative worship spaces may need to be found during this time)

ACTION FOUR: Explore the implications for the schedule of celebration of liturgies for the family mass and the University liturgies which take place in the Lannon Chapel.

- As part of the renovation project, commission a feasibility study which addresses the problems of overcrowding at the family mass and the use of the church by the University Campus Ministry

GOAL TWO: EDUCATION

Provide educational opportunities for parishioners to enhance their appreciation of and participation in liturgical worship.

OBJECTIVE ONE:

Communicate the need for a deeper understanding of what "full, active and conscious participation" in liturgy demands.

ACTION ONE: Devote three or four Sundays in the Easter season each year to education on Sunday Celebration of the Eucharist

- Ask homilists on these Sundays to preach about the meaning of and celebration of liturgy
- Facilitate discussions after the liturgies to deepen understanding and appreciation of the celebration

- Address the issues of renovations in the light of this educational effort

ACTION TWO: Explore the best means for on-going education in liturgy

- Create a reflection-action group of parishioners, interested in liturgical education and creativity, which meets on monthly basis
- Articulate the interface between this group and the liturgy commission
- Include a weekly liturgy reflection in the bulletin and on the website
- Offer "mini"courses to the whole parish on liturgy and sacraments that make explicit connections between "liturgy" and "life"
- Use above opportunities to educate about forms of liturgical prayer other than Sunday Eucharist

OBJECTIVE TWO:

Offer more opportunities for alternative prayer with lay presiding and homilists.

ACTION ONE: Offer a liturgical prayer service each month with a lay person presiding and homilists

- Interface with different commissions to plan a monthly prayer service using the leadership gifts of parishioners
- Offer training opportunities in "lay preaching and presiding" for interested parishioners
- Increase the attendance at Advent and Lenten Evening Prayer through publicity and education, especially in the area of lay presiding

OBJECTIVE THREE:

Make a more explicit connection between the RCIA program and the larger parish community within the liturgical assembly.

ACTION ONE: Explore ways of connecting parishioners with catechumens and candidates in the initiation process

- Prepare the community for the celebration of the rites of initiation in the Advent and Lenten seasons through catechesis in the bulletin and in preaching
- Increase the visibility in the larger community of the catechumens and candidates through photos, biographies and opportunities for personal meetings

GOAL THREE: RECRUITMENT

Invite a wider participation in the lector, acolyte, hospitality, Eucharistic and music ministries.

OBJECTIVE ONE:

Increase the numbers of volunteers in the various ministries.

ACTION ONE: Set goals for each individual liturgy for numbers of volunteers needed in each ministry

- Ask coordinators of each liturgy to determine a specific number of people that they would need and use for these ministries
- Use the annual Sunday sign-up days to recruit various ministries
- Target recruitment by liturgy throughout the year to make up deficiencies in numbers
- Train and use ministers in a timely fashion by scheduling them at the time of the sign-up
- Assure equal participation through regular rotation of ministers

- Develop an acolyte program that involves young people in this ministry of service
- Develop a funeral ministry that includes volunteers in the roles of greeters, lectors and altar servers

GOAL FOUR: COLLABORATION

Collaborate with St. Ignatius commissions and other worshipping communities to enrich the liturgical experience of participants.

OBJECTIVE ONE:

Facilitate conversations and planning with other commissions that have liturgical components in their ministry.

ACTION ONE: Hold semi-annual joint commission meetings where each commission identifies its liturgical needs

- Encourage the sharing of resources in planning and executing of programs in spirituality and social justice
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OBJECTIVE TWO:

Look for opportunities for dialogue and celebration with other worshipping communities.

ACTION ONE: Continue dialogue with the office of Campus Ministry at Boston College

- Facilitate meetings with Campus Ministry staff to explore common resources and plan for one or two joint services during the academic year
- Re-examine the role of Campus Ministry at St. Ignatius in the light of new liturgical renovations

ACTION TWO: Explore possibilities of ecumenical services in the local area

- Initiate dialogue with David Kilian, pastor of All Saints in Brookline, about pulpit exchange

- Collaborate with Newton clergy in ecumenical services planned throughout the year

GOAL FIVE: ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE:

Continue to emphasize the role of the arts in worship and spirituality and devote musical and other resources to this goal

OBJECTIVE ONE:

A continued commitment to support the quality of musical liturgy at St. Ignatius.

ACTION ONE: Discern the needs of the music program so that it will continue to grow and not diminish as a model archdiocesan music program

- Assess the needs of the music program with the director of music and others involved in music ministry

OBJECTIVE TWO:

Continue to develop other liturgical arts such as dance and drama to enhance the celebration of Sunday and special liturgies

ACTION ONE: Development of an intergenerational dance ministry at St. Ignatius

- Continue to offer classes and workshops in dance and movement prayer for youth and other parishioners
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BEST CASE SCENARIO

The best case scenario for liturgy at St. Ignatius must include a renovation of space as well as hearts and minds. The renovation of space in the upper church will facilitate the development of community as well as invite people into a celebration of the Rites of the Church in a more profound way than is currently available. The renovation of

"hearts and minds" will engage more and more people as full, conscious and active participants in the Church's worship.