



Pastoral Council Goals: 2024-2025



THEME

The theme “Together in Christ” was selected because it embraces our two-fold mission for this year: (1) to strengthen unity, stewardship, and communication within our parish community and (2) to reach out to the greater Lexington community with expanded charitable works of mercy.

THREE PRIMARY AREAS OF NEED

- Strengthen sense of community within the parish.
- Put faith in action through community outreach and charitable works of mercy.
- Improve splintered and inconsistent communication.

LONG-TERM GOAL

To encourage all OLR parishioners to participate and grow in their faith and love of Christ through active participation in a parish community that understands, respects, and appreciates each other.

ACTION PLAN

Goal 1: Provide increased opportunities for parishioners to engage and interact with each other in a welcoming, safe and inviting environment.

- Plan and conduct a minimum of two parish-wide events that build a welcoming and supportive environment among Hispanic and non-Hispanic parishioners.
- Research options for providing Conversational English and Conversational Spanish classes for parishioners to increase their ability to communicate with each other.
- Explore options for providing childcare assistance (e.g., train Youth Group to be registered babysitters) so more adults can participate in parish liturgical activities.
- Plan and conduct a minimum of three well-attended liturgical events (e.g., retreats, breakfast spiritual speakers, devotionals, prayer stations, etc.)
- Check with other churches with culturally diverse parishioners to discover effective options for creating unity.
- Create a unity prayer to be recited at each Mass..
- Form a committee of parishioners to address health and safety issues in and around the church and parish center.

Goal 2: Organize and promote increased participation in charitable works of mercy.

- Develop an annual calendar of Charitable Works of Mercy (food drives, Socktober, Backpack Program, Alpha Pregnancy, Angel Tree, clothing drives, Blessing Box, etc.) and ask parishioners to commit to at least three works per year.
- Create a system of divided responsibilities among Hispanic and non-Hispanic church ministries and groups to ensure that the OLR Blessing Box is kept full throughout the year.
- Become a more active partner with local churches and human service organizations that are serving the poor and homeless in the Lexington area.

Goal 3: Increase the number of parishioners providing stewardship to the church.

- Designate a particular month as “Joyful Gifts...Joyful Giving” marked by a special homily about sharing God’s gifts each parishioner has (time, talents, treasures) with the church, similar to Bishop Martin’s remarks at Confirmation.
- During Joyful Gifts...Joyful Giving month, distribute a handout to make parishioners aware of the multiple ways they can offer time, talent, and treasures to the church (e.g., ministries, plumbing, sewing, technology, landscaping, painting, etc.) and ask them to indicate those in which they could assist.
- Conduct an annual ministry fair with all stewardship functions represented to encourage additional volunteers.
- Engage parents waiting in the Parish Center during Faith Formation classes in service activities for the church.

Goal 4: Design a functional communication plan using feedback from parishioners that provides timely and relevant information to all parishioners.

- Gather feedback from parishioners (through in-pew survey) to see what kinds of church social and liturgical events they prefer to attend.
- Develop and distribute an online and in-pew survey to determine parishioners' communication preferences (e.g., email, texts, church bulletin, website, Facebook, parish app, church announcements, etc.) for receiving various types of church-related information.
- Using the results of parishioners' communication preferences survey, develop a communication plan to govern parish communications and establish processes and responsibilities for content contributors.

