

A note from the Implementation Team

So much has happened since we first released the Parish Pastoral Plan on the weekend of November 29th, 2020! Implementation Teams were formed in March 2021 and began their work to meet the first set of goals in the Plan. This Report is the current implementation status. There is one more year in this Implementation cycle. In order to bring the Plan to its full fruition for our parish, we need your gifts and talents—ideas, guidance, and time. Please read through this update and prayerfully consider how God is calling you to get involved with your parish.

Your Implementation Team Leaders,

Fr. Julius Okojie, Len Strzelecki, Abby Kyle & Mikel Hogan (Evangelization), Daniel Tucker (Discipleship), and Kerry Wallace (Accompaniment)

Evangelization

Our parishioners will be equipped and empowered to boldly share the gospel and its effects in their lives with the church and unchurched alike.

Implementation Goals:

- We will have 50 people each year to have their "Saul to Paul" moment and for ten of those people to be non-Catholics/nonbelievers/unchurched.
- We will have 50 participants in a weekly evangelization program (Metanoia, Alpha) each year. Each year ten of those people will be nonbelievers/unchurched.
- We will train 50 disciples to know + tell the story of Jesus and tell their own story of encountering Him.
- We will increase participation in RCIA by 25% each year.

Implementation Victories:

- "The One: A Busy Person's Retreat," November 2021- over 40 participants, 15 of whom reported experiencing a significant encounter with the person of Jesus on the retreat.
- Spiritual Impact Bootcamp, December 2021 - 24 participants were equipped to share the Gospel and their personal testimonies.
- "Anatomy of the Heart" Lenten Parish Mission, March 2022 - approximately 115 participants
- Winter Alpha Series, January 2022 - about 15 regular participants, including non-Catholic and fallen away Catholics.
- Household leaders have received continued formation and equipping in evangelization through our Spring Household leader retreat led by Damascus.
- Fifteen inquirers/participants in RCIA this year. Seven Adults became Catholic this Easter Vigil, a 15% increase from 2021 and an even larger increase from pre-pandemic.

Discipleship

Our parishioners will be nurtured and guided by the parish to continually deepen their relationship with Jesus so that they can truly follow Him in every aspect of their lives.

Implementation Goals:

- We will have a 5% increase in the number of parishioners who use Confession, engage in individual prayer, or attend a workshop/class on a monthly or more often basis.
- In response to the question "Where are you on your Catholic journey?" 45% of our parishioners will say they have a "personal relationship with Jesus Christ." (Current response rate is 36%)

Implementation Victories:

- Advent 2021: parishioners shared their testimonies of the sacrament of Confession at Masses leading up to our Advent Penance Service. Fr. Julius reports there is no shortage of people making use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Emphasis on the Eucharist: 1) On Corpus Christi, distributed the book '20 Answers: The Eucharist' and 2) before each Sunday Mass, the Reader proclaims our firm belief that the Holy Eucharist is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- January 2022: Elijah Coburn-McDonald began leading a Bible study focused on the Jewish roots of the Catholic faith.
- A team of men are preparing to host a Men's Welcome Retreat in August 2022.
- Parish Ministries. Work is underway to catalogue the current ministries and establish processes for ongoing information sharing, joining a ministry, and adding new (or discontinuing) ministries in the future.

Accompaniment

We will establish and develop meaningful connections within our parish family + local community, growing in awareness of the sacredness of each person and walking with them as we journey together toward heaven.

Implementation Goals:

- We will create a strategy for consistent outreach to parishioners, especially those who may be less connected to the parish.
- We will match every new parishioner/family with a parish companion family within three months of their registration.
- We will have at least 75 different parish families participating in the household program.

Implementation Victories:

- Consistent Outreach to Parishioners - Chili Cook-off and Lenten Soup Suppers.
- Phone Bank - volunteers reached out to 225 parishioners via phone to wish them a Happy Easter. This will be done on a regular basis to extend a greeting and check in with all parishioners.
- New Parishioner Engagement - held a New Parishioner Brunch in January 2021; in the process of creating a New Parishioner Match program to provide accompaniment for newly registered parishioners and families on a rolling basis.
- Households, launched in October 2021 - each of the 3 households has 15-30 regular participants in their monthly household nights.

How can I help?

- Kerry Wallace (Accompaniment Team lead) needs volunteers to assist with hospitality, parishioner outreach, and new parishioner engagement. To get involved please fill out the forms on our website: littleflowerchurch.org/info. Questions? Contact Kerry at wallace1236@att.net or 574-532-6282.
- Is there a Catholic book/study/topic you are passionate about? The Discipleship Team is seeking volunteers to lead future studies. Contact Daniel at daniel@littleflowerchurch.org or 574-243-3440.
- Take the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey when it's time! Next Spring we will once again administer the DMI to evaluate if we are meeting our goals and to get a feel for where we are as a parish. The more people who take this the better our data will be!

Our Core Values

Authentic Accompaniment

People before projects.

Focused toward Jesus, together.

Owning our littleness.

Joyful Receptivity

Learning to hear God's voice.

Trusting that everything is grace.

Dreaming God-sized dreams.

Sacrificial Generosity

God first, others second, I am third.

I let God interrupt my plans.

I have gifts worth giving.



To view the full Parish Pastoral Plan scan the code or visit: littleflowerchurch.org/parish-pastoral-plan

