

"If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up someplace else." - Yogi Berra and Fr. Al

Strategic Plan September 2024 Report

Good news! The Queen of Peace community knows where it is going and God is blessing our efforts.

How do we know? Because your parish council advisors along with Fr. Al, prayerfully envisioned a five-year strategic plan launched in 2023. The council continues to pray over, nurture and listen to how Jesus Christ is being offered through every experience at Queen of Peace. It is a beautiful plan and so very satisfying to see enthusiasm, excitement and relationships spring from its implementation.

Strategic plan's four pillars:

Pillar One: Engaging Hospitality and Community Involvement:

“...we accompany one another by opening our hearts to each other with mutual vulnerability. These spiritual friendships transform parishioners into the Body of Christ.”

Pillar Two: Dynamic Liturgical Celebrations and Spiritual Growth:

“It is our goal to celebrate our liturgies with both reverence and enthusiasm. We want people to leave Mass with a lift in their step, ready to move forward with vigor and courage.”

Pillar Three: Outreach:

“Continue to support existing partnerships and encourage the growth of future ones, domestic and abroad.”

Pillar Four: Empowering Our Youth and Young Adults:

Our goal is to provide age-appropriate stewardship formation for our youth and young adults while responding to their needs, concerns and suggestions.”

"Success is not the destination, it's the journey." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Working the plan is the journey. Here are ways we have journeyed together these past three months:

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation) Becomes OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

A new translation of the RCIA book began in November, 2021 and is now ready for implementation as OCIA in 2024.

To learn more about the new translation, Kyle DePalma, QOP's DRE and Betty Sampson traveled to Chicago this summer to attend the National Gathering on Christian Initiation. The conference's theme was Evangelization and the OCIA.

Over 300 people gathered at Loyola University to be empowered and instructed on fulfilling the Church's vision to provide personal experiences to encounter a relationship with Christ along with academic teachings of the Catechism for those seeking initiation. Evangelism is the thread that weaves through the initiation process.

"OCIA can transform the parish," Fr. Richard Vega said, as he cast the vision that the entire parish has a part to play in the OCIA process.

QOP already has 30+ seekers looking forward to the Rite of Welcome on September 8th at the 10:00 Mass. *A new approach supporting Pillar 1, 2, 3, 4*

Journey of the Chalice - A chalice is offered at each Mass to go home with parishioner(s). We are to pray the Rosary everyday in the presence of the chalice with the intention for the call to men and women to religious vocation. *A new ministry supporting Pillar 2.*

Christmas in July ...*Santa goes to Mass wearing shorts.*

We at QOP want God's presence all year long. We don't store Jesus away with the Christmas decorations! Christmas in July supports our outreach partners. Because of a predictable summer lag of support for charitable works, QOP parishioners shopped online for gift wish list items and provided food collections to bring the spirit of Christmas...all year long. *Second year ministry supporting Pillar 3*

Multicultural Sunday Mass

"Multicultural celebrations reveal the Church's universal essence, where diverse individuals unite as beloved children of a loving Father, gathered around the table of shared humanity and faith.

The gathering of the Indian Catholic community in Gainesville was a heartwarming homecoming experience, where members shared the rich gifts of their heritage and faith with the entire parish, creating a vibrant tapestry of unity and celebration, reflective of the loving Father's boundless generosity. The celebration served as a poignant reminder of the vibrant Catholic Church in India, offering a chance to pray for her continued growth and flourishing,

The Holy Mass reached its pinnacle with the poignant offertory procession, where children tenderly carried flowers, symbolizing innocence and purity, accompanied by a soulful Communion meditation song, "Peace on Earth," sung in an Indian language, resonating deeply with the congregation." *Written by Fr. Figi*

Portuguese - Edna or Fr. Al

Come celebrate Columbia in the Multicultural Mass Sunday September 15th at 10 am. *Events supporting Pillar 1, 2, 4*

Christ Renews His Parish (CHRP)

Christ Renews His Parish (CHRP) is a weekend retreat held within the parish. The first retreats took place at Queen of Peace this past Spring. The men are planning the 2nd retreat weekend September 27th -29th and the women are planning for October 18th-20th. The retreat begins Friday evening and goes all day Saturday and ends Sunday afternoon. You will sleep at home.

The goal of the weekend is to:

- Deepen your faith and have an experience with Christ
- Discover you are not alone in your struggles
- Build genuine relationships and a Godly brotherhood and sisterhood (that's the reason its called Christ Renews His Parish)

Please consider coming to one of the weekends! It is a wonderful opportunity to enhance your faith journey. Written by Brian Kerr *Renewed ministry Spring 2024 supporting Pillar 1, 2*

Youth Fall Kick Off

350 youths gathered at QOP for the Fall Kick Off event. 350!!! How many pizzas were served? 90!!! Are we reaching our young people with the good news Jesus Christ offers? Yes!!!! *This event supports Pillar 1,2,3,4 (definitely 4!)*

The Strategic Plan can be seen in its entirety here:

<https://queenofpeaceparish.org/strategic-plan>