

# **St. Raphael Parish Vision**

Pastoral Plan of Action

For 2016-2021

Revised 3/16/2016

## ***It is our prayer that St. Raphael Parish is a community that characterizes the following Vision:***

### **1. Where all members as Disciples of Christ are encouraged to have a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through a focus on Sacred Scriptures and the Sacraments, especially the Sunday Eucharist.**

*“Jesus approached them and said to them, ‘all power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you” [Mathew 28:18-20].*

Action:

- a. To promote formation of small groups and scripture study during Lent and throughout the rest of the year with additional faith formation resources.

Responsible Group: Evangelization and Communication Commission

- b. To encourage participation in Adoration--invite people to come, encourage teens to participate (rehearsal)
- c. To offer/teach Taize prayer for both adults and teens
- d. To Encourage spending daily quiet time with God
- e. Members who pray daily become volunteer ministers and they grow as givers

### **2. Where Liturgy is celebrated with the full conscious and active participation of the members.**

*“The Eucharist is the sum and summary of our faith. The church’s faith is essentially a Eucharistic faith, and it is especially nourished at the table of the Eucharist. For this reason, the Eucharist is always at the heart of the church’s life: thanks to the Eucharist, the church is reborn ever new. The livelier the Eucharistic faith of the people of God, the deeper is its sharing in ecclesial life in the steadfast commitment to the mission entrusted by Christ to his disciples” [Pope Benedict XVI].*

Action:

- a. To encourage families and youth to participate more fully in the Mass with monthly Children's and Life Teen Masses  
Responsible group: Education Commission, Music Ministry, Core Team
- b. To encourage serving in Liturgical Ministry with presentations and personal testimony in the bulletin
- c. Weekend liturgy: we are aware of the need for good music, relevant message, kids and youth participation.
- d. Music: then Elisha said, 'now get me a minstrel'! when the minstrel played, the hand of the Lord came upon Elisha [2 Kings 3:14-15]. Music and singing play a very important role in the life of God's people. Psalms exhort us to sing. Music in service to God is powerfully transformative for a parish.

**3. Where sacraments are readily available and all Catholics are able to receive them throughout all stages of life.** *"All of you are Christ's body and each one is a part of it." (1Cor 12:27)*

Action:

- a. To provide ministry to the Homebound and those parishioners at Valley View  
Responsible Group: Christian Service Commission
- b. To provide transportation for residents of Nemont Manor to get to Mass on Sundays and Holidays on Valley County transit  
Responsible Group: Evangelization Communication Commission
- c. To encourage the Sacrament of Reconciliation by talking about it more, put it in the bulletin more, encourage in small groups
- d. To mention the sacrament of Reconciliation in the prayers of the faithful
- e. Consider doing a Healing Service during Lent
- f. Renewal of marriage vows during Family Sunday. Deacon Ed Malone is certified for conducting marriage pre classes

**4. Where the sanctity of human life is supported from conception to natural death.**

*"You created my inmost self, knit me together in my mother's womb. For so many marvels I thank you; a wonder am I, and all your works are wonders" [Psalm 139:13-14].*

Action:

- a. Respect Life Sunday Walk – October
- b. Plan an event with the Rosary and education on the Sanctity of Human Life in the gym (talk, video, prayer, exposition and brunch) – Education Commission
- c. Theology of the Body for teens with grades 6-12 and Parents (on a as needed basis)
- d. Provide Safe & Sacred Training on dignity and respect for human life for all age groups. This training is completed every year.

## **5. Where all people feel welcomed and experience hospitality and spirituality.**

*'I heard of the love and the faith you have in the Lord Jesus and for all the holy ones, so that your partnership in the faith may become effective' [Philemon: 5-6].*

Action:

- a. To lead initiatives for reaching out and welcoming people back to the Catholic Church  
Responsible Group: Evangelization and Communication Commission (E&CC)
- b. To evaluate the hospitality of our parish with the “Welcoming Parish Survey” and make changes as appropriate
- c. To plan at least 3 events during the year and “cast the net wide” to invite people who do not regularly attend Mass (Parish Picnic, Winter Social, Mardi Gras Carnival, Vacation Bible School, Family Night, Family Sunday)
- d. Includes: Harvest Dinner, Postcard sent to all members, Feast Day Breakfast, Glentana parish celebrates Epiphany Sunday  
Responsible Group: Parish Council
- e. Communication: connect with each other
- f. Tools: Parish bulletin/parish website/Facebook/constant contact outreach

## **6. Where everyone is responsive to persons who are in need, vulnerable or marginalized.**

*Then the King will say: 'Come O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundations of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me'. [Mathew 25:34-36]*

Action:

- a. Continue to provide Comfort Quilts
- b. Giving Tree (get more info), Shoeboxes Operation Christmas Child
- c. Food Bank Collections-promote in a better way
- d. Operation Rice Bowl
- e. Giving box for Haiti
- f. Coat Closet

Responsible Group: Christian Service Commission/Education Commission

## **7. Where religious education and faith formation are provided for all ages.**

*'Why were you looking for me? He asked. Did you not know I must be in my Father's house?' [Luke 2:49]*

Action:

- a. To offer a Family Sunday with a guest speaker, activities for children Family Sunday has become an annual event.
- b. To offer Religious Education from pre-school to high school using resources from the PFLAM weekly series. Edge is offered to middle school.
- c. Core Team and Catechists learn through meeting and teaching
- d. Encourage all parents to teach Religious Ed for their own faith formation
  - Sr Retreat every year
  - Search-3 day retreat, maybe with the Wolf Point Vicariate
  - Need more men on the Core Team
  - Library in the Blue Room

## **8. Where stewardship is a way of life and where all parish ministries are fully staffed and funded, and our building and facilities are regularly maintained.**

*"As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1Peter 4:10)*

Action:

- a. Observe Stewardship Sunday (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in November)
- b. Look into the planning of adding a gathering space to the church-preliminary plans are being made
- c. Parish Endowments are promoted and sponsored
- d. Talk about Montana Tax Credit
- e. Stewardship Brochures
- f. Stewardship stories in the bulletin; sharing personal stories in church.
- g. Ministry Signup weekend during Lent—stewardship of time and talent

**9. Where evangelization is understood as a responsibility of all, efforts to invite people into the Church are fruitful, and the Rite of Christian Initiation is fully celebrated.**

*'The Son of man has come to seek and save what was lost' [Luke 19:10]*

Action:

- a. Inquiry/RCIA class meets year round to be available for seekers.  
Responsible group: RCIA Team
- b. Encourage parishioners to stay and talk with new people after Mass
- c. Offer coffee and rolls after Mass outside
- d. Encourage parishioners to be on the lookout for people in their neighborhood, at their kid's school or sports events, or at the pool, people who do not have a church. Build relationships and when the opportunity arises, invite them to church. The whole parish is evangelization committee.
- e. Focus on the unchurched people in the community
- f. Newcomers are welcome and are invited to come back  
Responsible Groups: ECC and RCIA Team

**11. Where the ministries of our Bishop are supported and funded.** *"I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God's people. I remember you in my prayers" (Ephesians 1:15-16)*

Action:

- a. Care and Share goal is met each year – COF (Current Operating Fund) 7%, Care & Share 14
- b. Financially and spiritually support Deacon Ed Malone

## **12. Where we acknowledge and embrace the history of our parish and the sacrifices previously made and use that history of sacrifice as a model for our future.**

*'We give thanks to God always for you all, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love in our Lord Jesus Christ' [1Thessalonians 1:2-3]*

Action:

- a. Work on history of each church in the parish
- b. Ask for old photos of each church to scan and create a digital history (Footprints in the Valley)  
Nashua has a history book compiled by Sandy Laumeyer.
- c. Celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Raphael's in 2020.

## **13. Encyclical By Pope Francis**

Care for Creation *"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good" [Genesis 1:31]*  
*You love everything that exists; you do not despise anything that you have made (Wisdom11:24)*

Action:

- a. Recycle
- b. Carpool, walk, ride a bike
- c. Conserve electricity-turn off lights if not needed
- d. Plant trees

## **14. Year of Mercy**

Action:

- a. The Thirst Conference in Bismarck
- b. Encourage parishioners to participate in a pilgrimage for the "Year of Mercy"