Sacred Heart of Jesus **Parish**

Grand Rapids, MI

Strategic Intent Map September 3, 2024

Direction Snapshot of current practices

- -New encyclical letter: "Fratelli Tutti" Unity & Christian brotherhood and sisterhood ('20)
- -New edition- Directory for Catechesis ('20)
- -V Encuentro (nat'l pastoral planning for Hispanic ministry, 2017-20) Female, He Created Them" (toward a path of dialogue on the question of gender theory and education, 2019)
- -USCCB pastoral letter against racism: "Open Wide Our Hearts" (2018) -Apostolic exhortation "Amoris Laetitia" (2016)
- -Encyclical letter: "Laudato si" Care for our Common Home (2015) -Apostolic exhortation "Evangelii Gaudium" (13)
- Sex abuse scandal
- National Eucharistic Revival (2022-24)
- Defense of religious freedom
- Global pandemic (2019-2022)

Responsibilities

- living the Tradition
- Church and fellowship
- allowing them to influence how we love our neighbor
- Deliver strong formation that gives us hope for
- Celebrate beauty in our church, music, art, and in vocations of family and religious life
- partnership with each other
- promotes the unity of knowledge and the complementarity of faith and reason
- works of mercy

What is important to us

- the Pope and Bishop

- The Domestic Church and formation of children in the faith
- vibrantly the Church's life, devotions and
- Pursuit of truth/intellectual life
- Beauty, truth and goodness
- The educational apostolate of the school
- Active evangelization
- Ongoing conversion: Daily growth in holiness
- Community-Friendship
- Building Culture by Sacrifice

Universal Church

- Continued new evangelization
- -Vatican Congregation of Catholic Education document: "Male and
- -Identity of the Catholic School for a Culture of Dialogue (3/2022)

- Synod on Synodality (2021-24)

• Promote faith through strong catechesis and

- Bring hope by living the liturgical life of the
- Foster charity by living the sacraments and
- future generations
- Promote an intentional Catholic culture of life in
- Deliver an integrated Catholic education that
- Reach out through the corporal and spiritual
- Assist laity in living out their vocations to transform the secular order

Values

- Fidelity to the teaching of the Church and to
- Reverent celebration of the liturgy and the
- Eucharistic adoration and devotion
- Striving and challenging each other to live

Diocese of Grand Rapids

- 175,000 Catholics; 79 parishes, 31 schools in 11 counties of West Michigan
- Bold leadership and support for evangelization from Bishop Walkowiak
- -Catholic schools supported as the single most effective means of evangelization
- Bishop's Catholic Schools Initiative and Bridging Faith &
- Future school plan being implemented
- Pastoral plan for Hispanic ministry being implemented
- Our Shepherds Our Future surpassed goal
- Declining parish membership

We are landlocked

Annual Commitment of Fidelity

follow up (Metric #1,2,3,4)

Becoming More Welcoming

engagement plan (Metrics #6,7)

#1,2,3,4)

(Metric #5)

Promoting a culture of Sabbath Rest and Jubilee

maintain privacy; led by staff (Metrics #1,2,3,4)

- Cultural acceptance of same-sex marriage and gender ideology conflict with Church teaching
- Priest shortage; many pastors called on to lead clustered parishes & other diocesan responsibilities
- Diocese initiating new pastoral planning process 2024

• Parking limitations (100 fewer parking places than needed)

Simplify the annual process of CF to single page with robust

Build CF team of non-employee parishioners to execute and

Provide monthly reporting to the parish on the success of CF

via bulletin, including financials; educate parish (Metrics

Commitment of Fidelity process and training opportunities

Learn, live and share our parish culture; See Values (Metric #8)

Construct, utilize and evaluate exit surveys at parish events

Build a culture of hospitality (for visitors) through the

Create and implement a 12-month new parishioner

and improve programs as needed (Metric #9)

manage the simplified process collaborating with office staff to

• Physical plant in need of significant repair (\$4+M for the church,

\$3+M for school), \$10 M renovate school, \$30-50M new school

• Many parishioners travel a distance to participate at Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

- Reverent practice of Roman Rite of the Mass; well attended; frequent reception of sacraments
- Parish and school growing; facilities at/beyond capacity
- One pastor, others in residence; new deacon
- Education of adults; strong RCIA numbers
- Family groups

Environment

- Mission trips and other activities for youth
- Strong music program; Palestrina 500 festival; new organ

• Only parish in diocese offering a Traditional Latin Mass

Adjacent to John Ball Park – changes may impact parish

• Only parish in diocese with a lawsuit against State of Michigan

• Only Catholic classical academy in diocese

• City neighborhood is in state of flux

• Hosting Palestrina 500 in 2025 will impact parish

• Explore and develop options for renovation and/or expansion of

existing academy building with cost estimates (Metrics #10,11)

• Incorporate all parish and academy apostolates to determine

Conduct a 5-year strategic planning process for the academy (Metrics

- Counseling services, spiritual direction, marriage prep, annulment processes
- More baptisms than funerals
- 12 priest/religious vocations in recent years
- Vibrant server core, sacristans
- Service to the poor; meal trains for new births
- Parish programs reach beyond parish bounds
- Ongoing church restoration

Critical Realities Issues that affect our work

Strategies Shared agenda for success

Our Largest Apostolate

Trends Economic, Social, Political, Philanthropic, etc.

- Economic uncertainty
- Political and community polarization
- Recognition of social injustices
- Increase in non-traditional families
- Same-sex marriage is legal nationwide
- Social media plays significant role in our lives
- Ubiquitous access to unfiltered information
- Economic, political and social trends impact mental health
- Security of children/school safety are concerns
- Increasingly secular world
- Attitudes of relativism and individualism: whatever you believe is ok

What we aspire to achieve

We aspire to spread

from heart unto heart

the Love of Christ,

the Beauty of His

Church and Her

Tradition, and the Truth

of the Gospel for the

salvation of souls

• LGBTQ ideologies popularly promoted

- Distrust/dislike of institutional authority; lack of civil discourse
- Violence/threats of violence on the rise
- Hispanic population continues to increase nationally and locally
- Percentage of children in poverty continues to increase
- People report being less religious and more spiritual • Concern about disaffiliation from the Church
- Declining vocations to priesthood and religious life

as early as age 13

Vision Metrics

Quantitative measures of our success

Annual Commitment of Fidelity

- 1. **100% response** and follow up for validated, registered parishioners
- **Resources**: 50% Faith Direct for all validated, registered parishioners
- 3. Prayer: 100% commitment to prayer
- 4. Service: 50% of parishioners volunteer in apostolate/other necessary parish work

Becoming More Welcoming

- 6. Hospitality: Parishioners & ushers commit to greeting unfamiliar faces at Mass
- Hospitality: Shortened learning curve for people to enter more fully into liturgy 7. **Communication:** 12-month engagement plan for new parishioners, end with
- survey to gauge if feel welcome
- 9. Activities/events: Feedback surveys measure quality and participation of events

Our Largest Apostolate

- 10. Size of student body: Physical plant large enough to accommodate 100% of parish children desiring to attend the academy
 - 11. Building design to include parish use: Ability to meet 100% parish programmatic needs

Parish Maintenance, Growth, Development Vision

- 12. Current needs: Annual balanced/surplus budget at parish
- 13. Current needs: Fully restored sanctuary; additional parish facilities needs defined
- needs, diocesan obligations, and capital improvements (excluding new facilities)
- 2% yearly to accelerate capital improvements/expand programs, including new facilities
- 16. Financial transparency: Annual combined financial report developed/shared with parish by Nov. 30 each year

Competitive Landscape Why people make other choices

- Cost
- At capacity (school)

Mission

Why we exist

We are a traditional

Catholic parish

promoting faith,

bringing hope, and

fostering charity

through the

reverent celebration

of the sacraments

- Fear of the unknown
- Personal preferences Location/proximity
- More mainstream experience
- Contemporary/different music
- Young adult programs Different Mass times
- Solemn English Masses
- Some constituencies feel left out/more comfortable elsewhere
- Reputation/perception
- Participating fully in Mass requires a "learning curve"

Intellectual culture can be

intimidating Choosing other Christian options

programmatic needs for new academy building Select best option with realistic funding plan (Metrics #10,11)

Parish Maintenance, Growth, Development

Seek and secure funding for selected option (Metrics #10,11)

- Provide education about value of consistent giving, even small amounts (Metrics #12,13,14) Identify peer-to-peer contacts tied to Commitment of Fidelity
- (Metrics #12,13,14)
- Create project-specific giving opportunities (Metrics #12,13,14) Crowd source to raise awareness and increase giving (Metrics
- #12,13,14) Mobilize task force to identify current facility needs and plan for future growth, in cooperation with apostolates (Metric #13)
- contact (Metric #15) Define the scope and content of annual report; identify appropriate

Identify likely donors and their interests, and best individual to make

preparers (Metric #16) Develop/share first annual report in November 2025 (Metric #16)

Catholic Parish Practices

- Within Diocese of Grand Rapids
- Robust parish and school structure
- Many of the same functioning ministries
- Challenged with low volunteerism
- Aging infrastructure • Minority of parishioners support the

How we are typical

- parish financially • Lack of parish endowment
- Lack associate pastor Actively counter cultural

How we are atypical

- Offer more traditional Catholic practice
- Use of Latin; offer Traditional Latin Mass Sacred music
- o 3 priests in residence
- Many large families
- Classical academy with religious sisters • Staff takes Oath of Fidelity
- Large homeschool population
- Large, well trained altar server team • Strong adult formation programs
- Diverse parishioners from broad geographic area
 - Heart."

- Culture building: Parishioners can articulate shared understanding of parish culture

 - - 14. Current needs: Annual parishioner giving supports operating
 - 15. Outside parish advancement: Outside fundraising increases

Stakeholder Perceptions

How we want to be known, and by whom Parishioner: "I encounter Jesus Christ here!"

Student: "I encounter Jesus Christ here!" Visitor: "There's something special here."

Pastor: "My people love me and call me on to holiness." Council member: "Yes, I will serve another term with

Neighbor: "There's a lot going on there and it enriches our neighborhood." Grand Rapids community: "We can't afford to lose them."

Diocesan office and bishop: "You are my model parish."

Donors: "I've never regretted a cent I've given to Sacred