

## **Sacred Heart Parish, Aurora** **Pastoral Plan**

Sacred Heart Parish consciously decides to follow the word of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ. We are dedicated to learning and sharing the word with other parishioners and those that have not yet found their way to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. We gain our strength from sharing our Eucharistic assemblies with a diverse integrated congregation. We are committed to give young adults a choice by leading by example and involving them in the positive teachings of the Gospel. The Grace of God is all around us; we work to share the beauty, warmth, and the compassion with all those people who are seeking the path to find true happiness.

The draft pastoral plan was developed by the Parish Consultations Committee. It was developed through the following steps.

1. The “With a Heart Renewed” survey was presented at all parish Masses. A total of 363 people participated in the survey. It was then processed by Rockford Diocese and the results were returned to the committee. The Parish Consultations Committee reviewed the data paying special attention to those areas that the parish had high expectations but the parish indicated that we needed to work on.
2. In October 1997, the Consultations Committee completed a parish evaluation. We used materials supplied by the With a Heart Renewed manual. The parish was compared to the ideal parish as defined by the Diocese in their report “Indicators of Parish Vitality.”
3. In December 1997, an overview of the parish survey was handed out and presented at each Mass. Parishioners were able to review the survey results in more detail and provide additional feedback to the Parish Consultations Committee.
4. The Consultations Committee met throughout 1998 to develop and write the drafts for our pastoral plan.

# **Sacred Heart Parish, Aurora**

## **Pastoral Plan**

### **Priority #1**

To develop a committee to oversee and work with the volunteer needs of the parish.

Volunteer participation is very important for the parish to grow strong and be in a position so the parish can have a first contact group that responds, coordinates and matches the resources of the Church and Church leadership. This will not include the grounds and maintenance identified in Priority 3.

#### Objectives:

1. By May 1, 1998 we recommended to the Pastoral Council the development of a volunteer committee.
2. By August 1, 1998 the Heart Renewed Committee developed a new talent sheet that included specific needs to complement the general needs and to identify areas where volunteers were needed the most.
3. By October 1, 1998, we had the parish fill out new talent sheets to see what is available within our parish.
4. By November 1, 1998 we began a selective process for the committee that would include representatives from five groups from the Time & Talent sheets. We concluded that this group should meet quarterly with the pastor to discuss volunteer activities.
5. By April 1999, we will ask parishioners to fill out Time & Talent sheets if they have not already done so.
6. By June 1999, the Heart Renewed committee will evaluate the success of the volunteer committee and determine if the leaders should have terms.
7. By October 1999, redistribute Time & Talent sheets to parishioners.
8. Time & Talents sheets will be redistributed every 2 years.

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### **Priority #2**

To provide a high quality youth ministry program for our parish junior high and high school youth, so that their faith might be strengthened and an experience of Christian community can be developed among them.

Youth ministry is listed as the second priority because the parish Mass surveys indicated that parishioners had a strong desire for a good youth ministry program. This was confirmed by asking some of the youths of their interest in a program as well as ongoing requests by parents in the parish. The parish leadership in a separate evaluation of the parish's strengths and weaknesses verified this. The parents, youths, and parish leadership see a strong need to have alternative choices for activities for the youths. This would be a vehicle to aid the youths in becoming more active and participate within the parish.

#### Objectives:

1. By July 1, 1998 the pastor met with the Confirmation group to identify activities and interests to promote the interest of the youth group.
2. By March 1999, we would like to meet with the Heart Renewed Committees from the East Aurora churches (specifically St. Therese, St. Nicholas, Our Lady of Good Counsel and St. Joseph) to investigate benefits of joint activities and meetings for youth.
3. By December 1999, the Heart Renewed committee will identify a team that can review strategies and establish a program.
4. By January 2000 this team will identify strategy and specific plans to address some of the needs of the youth.
5. By March 2000, present plan to all parish groups, encourage them to recruit young adults and give ideas on how to present programs to the youths.
6. Establish a "youth seat" on the Pastoral Council once a youth group is established.

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### **Priority #3**

Stop the deterioration of the church building, grounds and to enhance its appearance, specifically church, convent, rectory, school, and grounds.

This is listed as the third priority because it was listed as a top priority by the parish Mass survey. The parish has been showing a concern for condition of the Church, convent, rectory, school, and grounds. The age of the buildings and the desire of the parish to assist with the improvement of these five areas indicated a need for coordination of the needs and the volunteers. This effort for improvement would report and be coordinated with the Pastoral Council to keep them updated on activities to achieve these goals.

#### Objectives:

1. By July 1, 1998 we identified our resources and assigned 5 individuals, recommended by the Pastoral Council and appointed by the Pastor, to be responsible for each area.
2. By February 1999, the names of these individuals will be published in the bulletin. We will be asking the parishioners to contact the rectory to leave suggestions or comments about their respective areas.
3. By May 1, 1999 give each individual time to assess their area and report their needs to the Pastoral Council.
4. By September 1, 1999 the Pastoral Council will review assessments on a monthly basis to determine what progress has been made.
5. By January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000 review the possibility of raising substantial moneys for a new worship center.

# Sacred Heart Parish, Aurora

## Pastoral Plan

This Pastoral Plan was developed to address the most important issues of concern as indicated in the parish survey. The survey indicated a number of other issues that are important as well. It is important for us, as a parish, to try to tackle these issues in small but effective steps. As these priority items are addressed to the satisfaction of the parish, we will be adding other priorities.

This process is being used to see how our parish meets some general areas that give us all an indication of the vitality of our Sacred Heart Parish. Some of the areas that we looked at are worship, community, service and education/formation.

We, as a parish, have to take responsibility for the vitality at Sacred Heart. Contribution of time and money are two active ways that we can work together to improve the vitality. This includes volunteering and participating in helping address the needs that we raised when we filled out the survey. Living a Christian life is a full time requirement.

“The sacred Council has set out to impact an ever-increasing vigor to the Christian like to the faithful; to adapt more closely to the needs of our age those institutions which are subject to change; to foster whatever can promote union among all who believe in Christ: to strengthen whatever can call all mankind into the Churches fold.”

(The Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy, #1, Second Vatican Council)