

PASTOR'S REFLECTION FOR THE NEW YEAR

by Fr. Black

As we begin a new year, I would like to reflect with you, in a 2-part series, my hopes for the coming year for our parish. In part 1, printed in our bulletin dated January 27, I offered some clarifications on the structure of our parish, as well as answered some questions I've received. In part 2, I am offering a deeper reflection on our vision statement and how we might live this vision as a parish.

*As a Catholic faith community, we will journey from an encounter with the living Christ
to a loving relationship with Him, using our unique gifts
to be intentional disciples, making church matter.*

As I look to the future of our parish, I would like to reflect on the Mission Statement that appears on the front of our weekly bulletin.

AS A CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY

It is my hope that we, as a parish, grow in our appreciation of the long and rich history of our Roman Catholic Church. Its traditions and rituals lift our hearts and minds to God. It is important that we know this tradition and share it lovingly with all who come to us.

WE WILL JOURNEY

Our faith life is a journey, both collectively and individually. As we respond to the callings of our Lord, we experience many different things along the way. Some of these experiences fill us with joy, some of them challenge us and hopefully all of them unite us together as brothers and sisters.

FROM AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE LIVING CHRIST

Our liturgy reminds us that we encounter Christ in many ways. The Liturgy of the Word makes Christ present through His teachings and example. The Liturgy of the Eucharist makes His real presence available to all of us. We, as believers, also encounter Christ as we relate to one another, loving and living in His name.

TO A LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

As we encounter Jesus Christ, we are to embrace that experience with such love and vigor that it becomes one with us. This experience draws us deeper into an ongoing relationship with the Lord, not only here, but in every moment of our lives.

USING OUR UNIQUE GIFTS AND TALENTS

God has blessed each of us with a specific set of gifts and talents. When we offer these, humbly and generously to the life of the parish, we are transformed into the Body of Christ.

TO BE INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES

As we are spiritually fed through our encounter with the Lord, this nourishment is intended to send us forth to be His presence in the world. As disciples, we proclaim His message, model His love of all people, especially those most vulnerable, and are guided by His call in all things.

MAKING CHURCH MATTER

As the conclusion of our mission statement, this becomes our goal. That church is not a place from which to come and go, nor a place that defines us only while we are here. Rather, everything we do as a parish makes a dramatic difference in our lives here, in our homes, workplaces, schools and to the ends of the earth.