

together we are a legacy

February 2015

Dear Parishioners,

Last year, we began a journey of faith as we embarked on a visioning process. This journey has indeed been that; there have been many moments of grace and insight, moments of question and discernment, moments of excitement, enthusiasm and hope. I savor the journey we have walked, and today give thanks for the cooperation that has led us here. Parishioners, staff, pastor, consultant, parish council and Holy Spirit have worked together on this journey and we have arrived at a turning point, the end of one part of the process and the beginning of another.

The final report of our visioning process is complete. We have done a thorough, excellent job in this process, gathering input, reflecting, writing and rewriting, discussing and presenting. And at the heart of it has been a prayerful spirit of trust, hope and cooperation with God. Now we move to implement this vision. It is time to act on what God has called us to do, and it is exciting!

The months ahead will see parish staff, volunteers, myself and parish council meeting, deciding, developing and establishing. As the vision has come together through cooperative effort, so will its implementation. Through the gifts and guidance of the Spirit, through the faithful stewardship of this parish community, this vision will no longer be a dream, but a reality!

I invite you to celebrate with me in a prayerful spirit of gratitude and joyful hope. This vision for our future is an exciting one, and I am so happy to be a part of it. Keep praying for God's blessings on this process, and keep cultivating a cooperative, positive mindset as we move forward.

Our parish was established on a strong faith and a solid legacy. We are all a part of that legacy now as we pray, participate, contribute, hope and dream. Together, we are the legacy of St. Elizabeth. Together with those in the past. Together with our neighbors in the community. Together with one another. Together with God. Together, we are a legacy.

Peace

Fr. Greg Haskamp
Pastor

Visioning overview and goals

St. Elizabeth's pastor, parish staff and parish council launched a parish visioning process in 2014 as we were experiencing growth in membership, the arrival of a new pastor, increased levels of stewardship, a strong and expanding school and in anticipation of our centennial anniversary.

The visioning process gave us the opportunity to take a step back, assess where we stand today, and give voice to what we wish our parish to be in the future. The process included the following goals:

- Conduct a broad assessment of the parish's effectiveness in implementing its mission
- Gather parish input on how to improve key components of the parish mission
- Capture parish visioning goals and priorities
- Outline general next steps to move the goals and priorities forward

Visioning Process

Different from a strategic plan, this visioning process did not aim to provide detailed plans about how to implement specific goals or accomplish certain priorities. Rather, the process aimed to give us the opportunity to take a step back, assess where we stand today, and give voice to what we wish St. Elizabeth parish to be in the future.

Visioning participation and activities

A nineteen person Visioning Oversight Committee, with broad representation across the parish, oversaw the process. The committee conducted a parish-wide survey that secured input from more than 378 parishioners, representing roughly 44 percent of parish households. Further, the committee hosted two parish visioning meetings to capture input on community needs, goals, and priorities. In total, more than 75 parishioners attended these meetings.

Summary of Visioning Goals and Recommendations

St. Elizabeth Parish seeks to make visible and tangible the presence of God, the love of Christ and the creativity of the Spirit – here and now. We grow into our future through these visioning goals and recommendations:

Area	Goal	Focus Areas
Foundations	Guided by a spirit of consultative and transparent leadership, energize lay leadership, ministry members, and staff to embrace and advance the parish mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish staffing Parish Council Parish ministry & organizational structure
Parish Liturgy & Prayer, Faith Formation	Filled with faith and rich in spirituality, celebrate and deepen our personal and communal faith life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prayer and worship Adult faith formation Youth and young adults faith formation
Community-Building, Hospitality, and Stewardship	Deeply committed to hospitality, to a welcoming spirit, and to the real presence of Christ in our time and place, continue to nurture and grow our strong sense of community and commitment to our call to be Christian stewards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community-building and hospitality Christian stewardship of time and talent
Serving Others	Inspired by our faith and the parishioners before us, continue, deepen, and broaden our generosity in service and outreach to those in need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish service ministries
Parish School	Building on the heritage of those who established and have sustained St. Elizabeth School, reaffirm our commitment to provide Christ-centered, child-focused, inclusive and academically rigorous preschool through 8th-grade education in our parish school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continual alignment of parish and school mission and vision Catholic identity Implement accreditation recommendations
Financial Resources	Blessed with abundant resources, financial acumen, and fiscal pragmatism, extend our practice of responsible stewardship of finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish reserves Development plans/Initiatives Christian stewardship of treasure
Physical Space	Through careful research and planning and a deep sense of ownership of our parish, identify the best configuration of our physical space and commit resources to needed improvements to support our parish mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current facility assessment Space utilization study Space improvement plan