



**WELCOME!**

## GUIDELINES:

- Purpose of Parish Pastoral Plan
  - ✦ Develop and implement two year strategic plan of action to address challenges
  - ✦ Goal: Enable parish to become more vibrant and sustainable and support spiritual life and effective pastoral ministry
- Planning Task Force
  - ✦ Pastor to establish task force



## TASK FORCE MEMBERS:

- ✦ Chris Ayoub
- ✦ Mario DiFiore
- ✦ John Emert
- ✦ Shannon Goetz
- ✦ Chris Hussey
- ✦ Chris Lee
- ✦ Sue Lione
- ✦ Joe Sindelar
- ✦ Christine Wagner





## PRIORITIES/FIVE GLOBAL CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED:

- ✦ Liturgy and Worship
- ✦ Family Life
- ✦ Evangelization
- ✦ Leadership
- ✦ Catechesis and Education





## THREE TEMPORALITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS TO BE ADDRESSED:

- ◆ Finances
- ◆ Buildings and Facilities
- ◆ Community Life



## PROCESS:

- ♦ Review parish sacramental and financial data
- ♦ Submit parish questionnaire
- ♦ Identify concrete steps to effectively address priority areas and assemble two year plan



- **IMPLEMENTATION:**
  - Periodic evaluation of goals
  - Review and evaluate annually
  - Two year timeframe to address challenges



# Pastoral Planning Questionnaire

St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church  
New Canaan, CT



## 1. What are signs of growth and vibrancy in your parish?



- Our ministries have increased in variety and for many ministries the participation rates have increased. Examples include: the newly added Women's Bible Study, "Walking with Purpose," and The Knights of Columbus.
- Our active parishioners are financially generous.
- Youth Ministry has significantly expanded its program offerings and has seen great growth in its participation rate. Our Teen Emmaus Program has been vibrant since 1981.

## 2. What is the greatest strength of your parish?



- Clergy inspire, encourage, and support parishioners and are an accessible and visible presence in town.
- Worship, Sacraments, and Adoration
- Facilities well maintained, well located in town
- Good community spirit. Parishioners work together and give of their time, talent, and treasure.
- Vibrant Adult and Youth Music Ministry

### 3. What are the greatest concerns/challenges facing the parish now/future?



- Mass attendance has declined
- Collections flat/declining
- Lack a Continuum of Education:
  - ✦ Challenge for post-Baptism/pre-CCD families to engage in the parish community
  - ✦ Attrition of Religious Education students after First Communion and Confirmation
  - ✦ Some parishioners do not understand the reverence to be demonstrated during liturgical services
  - ✦ Many adults are not properly catechized
- Our community needs greater evangelization

*(Continued on next slide)*



### 3. What are the greatest concerns/challenges facing the parish now/future?

*(Continued from prior slide)*



- Lack of a continuum of community service
- Lack of a campus master plan
- Need to connect and engage new and existing parishioners
- Homilies need to be consistent, engaging, and relevant
- Lack of activities to engage young adults, post high school, to grow in their faith



#### 4. Which of these challenges are being or can be addressed? How?



- Enhance the “Welcome Committee”
- Form ambassadors for outreach to partner with new parishioners
- Better utilization of ushers/greeters to welcome and assist at the Mass
- Continuing education for altar servers, lectors, and eucharistic ministers

*(Continued on next slide)*

## 4. Which of these challenges are being or can be addressed? How?

*(Continued from prior slide)*

- **Develop a Master Evangelization Program which can include:**
  - ✦ Formal scripture study
  - ✦ Informal brown bag lunch with priest
  - ✦ Lecture series, topics such as morality, Church history, parenting, marriage, and social justice
  - ✦ Establish small group events for spirituality and worship, e.g. Charismatic Healing Mass
  - ✦ Establish an annual parish mission
  - ✦ Work with the Diocese to develop a retreat resource database



#### 4. Which of these challenges are being or can be addressed? How?

*(Continued from prior slide)*



- Expand the social and community-building programs including large events (such as Casting the Net) and smaller potluck style dinners
- Enhance community service to encompass all ages
- Develop a Facilities and Property Master Plan



## 4. Which of these challenges are being or can be addressed? How?

*(Continued from prior slide)*



- **Improve Communication:**
  - ◆ Improve, expand functionality of website, use more effectively
  - ◆ Increase E-blast participation, need drive to increase amount of parishioner emails
  - ◆ Explore use of social media



## 5. Which challenges seem beyond the ability of the parish to address with current resources?



- Lack of classroom space, negatively impacts Religious Formation program (CCD).
- People's anger over abuse and financial scandals
- Over-scheduled lives that lead some people to place Mass and parish activities at a low priority.
- Many divorced people leave the Church because the annulment process is difficult, long, and often not responsive.

## 6. Is parish financially sound and sustainable for next five years? Why?

Yes.



- Parish has no loans
- Income versus expenses is positive and actively managed
- Management of financials is good and predictable
- *Note: Concern for declining weekly offering.*

## 7. How will the parish plan to address any financial challenges that may emerge?



- Implement capital project fundraising
- Make parishioners more aware of financial responsibilities
- Investigate varieties of electronic support and payment options for weekly offering



## 8. What is the current condition of your parish buildings?



- Church: Renovated 1995, new roof and painting 2015
- Rectory: Full renovation 2007, windows 2015, generator 2014
- School: New boiler 2016 (serves Church), 1/2 new roof 2016, second new boiler due, needs abatement
- Parish Hall (Stapleton Hall): Renovated 2009, needs bathroom renovation
- Grounds and Parking: various conditions, needs repair, better layout and circulation
- Other Parish Buildings: Tudor House, candidate for demolition due to poor condition



## 9. Are there any special capital repairs anticipated in next five years?



- Renovation/upgrade of audiovisual equipment for parish
- Renovation of bathrooms in Stapleton Hall
- Site and landscaping improvement

10. Do you have any buildings and/or land with potential to rent? How so?



St. Aloysius rents its large gymnasium for local groups and activities and also rents 2 apartments adjoining the priests' residence that are owned by the parish.

## 11. How do you see the parish collaborating with other parishes?



**There are no other Catholic parishes in New Canaan.**

**We should expand collaboration and partnership with other area parishes.**



12. What is your hope for your faith community?



**Email: [staloyuspastoralplanning@gmail.com](mailto:staloyuspastoralplanning@gmail.com)**



**Thank you!**