

## **STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES**

- 1. EVANGELIZATION:** To provide parishioners of all ages with the knowledge, capability and desire to reach out, grow and engage in a discussion of our faith.
  - Encourage all parishioners in the work of evangelization.
  - Establish an approach for the faith formation of the post-Confirmation and young adult members.
  - Capture and expand upon the successes of our present faith formation initiatives especially the GIFT program.
  - Enhance a welcoming presence for members of the community not actively engaged in the practice of their faith.
- 2. TODAY'S CHURCH:** To continue to educate parishioners about their role in today's Church.
  - To provide education, communication and action, which are consistent with the teaching of Vatican II.
  - To raise a greater awareness among the lay members of their role in the Church, which flows from their baptismal call.
  - To enable lay members to more appropriately acknowledge and appreciate the implications for them and for our parish of a Church with fewer priests.
- 3. PASTORAL CARE:** To provide our parish community with trusted resources to help identify, direct and aid individuals/families in crisis.
  - To provide the pastoral staff and parishioners with knowledge of local, state and archdiocesan agencies to assist with referrals to a safe/trusted place for individuals/families in crisis.
  - To identify services (for addiction, divorced and separated, elder care, illness, bereavement etc.) to direct those in need. To discover early warning strategies and systems before a crisis arises.
  - To communicate resources to the parish through the bulletin, newsletter, website and bulletin boards.
  - To raise consciousness of the value and availability of pastoral conversations with designated staff.
- 4. SOCIAL OUTREACH:** To develop and expand our outreach and social justice ministries in order to enhance that dimension of our parish mission.
  - To educate parishioners more about Catholic Social Teaching.
  - To continue to identify needs and to better utilize the time and talent of our parishioners in furthering our mission of outreach and social justice.
  - To collaborate with other parishes, faith communities and organizations to combine resources for outreach.

- To leverage our existing ministries to maximize our current initiatives and create new opportunities for service.
  - To be alert to the needs of the community.
- 5. PUBLIC RELATIONS:** To promote the image of Sacred Heart Parish and the Catholic Church within the Southbury community.
- To raise awareness of our programs and ministries in order to better communicate the positive contribution of our pastoral ministry, faith formation and social outreach in the community.
  - To develop and publicize the story of why Sacred Heart Parish is an important part of Southbury and the larger community.
  - To make appropriate use of current media (bulletin, newsletter, website, local news outlets etc.) and of developing technologies in this effort.
- 6. HAITI:** To develop a personal relationship with the people of Haiti and especially with Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Parish in Gran Boulage in response to the call of the US Bishops to become truly “catholic” by reaching out beyond our borders and our zones of comfort to those less fortunate than ourselves.
- To work with and through the Norwich Diocesan Office of Haitian Ministries to raise awareness of the needs of the Haitian people and to encourage our parishioners to participate in programs to empower them.
  - To promote an awareness of and a pride in our covenantal relationship with Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Parish through continuing education, example and visits to Haiti.
  - To identify specific needs and to determine the types of projects Sacred Heart is willing to undertake in partnership with OLSS.
  - To establish a long-term parish plan for funding our commitment to the people of Haiti and especially of Gran Boulage.
- 7. FINANCIAL STABILITY:** To sustain current financial stability and to plan for short/long term growth in order to continue the parish mission.
- To identify opportunities to streamline costs and leverage scale buying-power through the archdiocese and other local communities.
  - To focus on additional creative sources of revenue.
  - To continue to create awareness of short and long term budget needs.
  - To increase parishioner participation in ParishPay and envelope system.

