

All Called To Christ

Area Catholic Community Planning Council

Strategic Plan

December 31, 2019

Over the past few months, members from the *All Called To Christ (ACC)* Area Catholic Community of St. Anthony, Christ Church Newman Center, Holy Spirit, St. Augustine, St. John Cantius, and St. Mary's Cathedral have worked on acquiring data, discussing issues, and facilitating the voices of parishioners in order to create a strategic plan for submission to the Diocesan Planning Office.

The ACC Planning Council structured the goals and visions around the “7 Elements of a Vibrant Parish”: Word, Worship, Evangelization, Community, Service, Leadership, and Stewardship. This plan is not all-encompassing; rather, it is an organic, fluid document to guide the ACC through its parish structures, councils, and leadership in future decision-making.

The ACC Planning Council focused on five areas: Parish Data, Schedule Coordination, Staffing, Physical Plant and Communications. Sub-committees were formed to gather information and data in each of the five areas. Then, the larger ACC Planning Council reviewed and discussed the data. In this process, the ACC Planning Council held brainstorming sessions to identify goals, visions, and dreams for the ACC. At one session, council members from each parish joined the ACC Planning Council to understand the process, to discuss priorities, and to consider an ACC name. After compiling all information from data collection and parish council and parishioner concerns, the ACC Planning Council generated goals and visions into one, three, and five year increments for each of the five areas.

These five areas support the main ACC focus: Evangelization. This is our highest priority as we strive for ever-better ways to proclaim the Good News of Christ and strengthen parish life. Although the committee generated many poignant ideas and goals, we have identified the following vision for a vibrant Area Catholic Community.

We recognize that one of the first steps is to determine how the councils and leadership of each parish will collaborate in effective ways to achieve these goals within the ACC. We also recognize the unique missions of both Christ Church Newman Center with the University community, and St. Mary's as the diocesan Cathedral church.

Our Fundamental Goal: Evangelization

Our main purpose is to grow our presence and influence and build up the life of the Church through ongoing formation of active Catholics, reaching out to inactive Catholics and those with no faith tradition, and transforming society, family, and institutions with the Gospel.

To realize this, we propose the following three goals. They focus on (1) invigorating our existing parish communities; (2) expanding our outreach to grow those parish communities; (3) and engaging our communities more effectively with the larger area we serve.

Smart Goal #1: To build upon our existing community, we will increase active membership and engagement of parishioners in the ACC by 20% by December 2025.

2020 Goals:

- Create an ACC Mission Statement and logo to establish unity & community.
- Offer training and strengthening for the Greeters and Ushers ministry in parishes.
- Develop a process to connect, communicate with, and as reasonable share volunteers in the ACC.
- Establish a stronger Media presence to connect with all members of the ACC.
 - a. Designate an ACC Administrator for Social Media platforms
 - b. Make parish webpages/Facebook/Twitter/Instagram clear, welcoming, and unified
 - c. Make “Formed” (an electronic outreach from the Augustine Institute) available to all parishes
 - d. Utilize social media applications for two-way communication
 - e. Establish a parish app. shared by all parishes in the ACC to communicate events to members
 - f. Create a joint bulletin and/or monthly/quarterly newsletters
- Engage councils and leadership to minimize redundancies in applicable capital expenditures between the individual churches and collaborate on ways to maintain and utilize facilities and equipment (ongoing).
- Develop a plan to coordinate Marriage preparation, Faith Formation and Baptism preparation programs .

2023 Goals:

- Establish a team focused on Evangelization within the ACC with each parish budgeting an equitable amount towards a joint outreach.
- Develop a hospitality plan for all ACC parishes
- ~~Installation of~~ media screens in each parish’s church entry for sharing information.
- Create “Welcome Centers” in all buildings.
- Evaluate scheduling of Masses and other worship and sacramental events as clergy availability and parishioner input warrants (2023 or earlier if necessary).

- Develop consistent training and support opportunities for all staff (ongoing)
- Crosstrain staff and collaborate on best utilization of staff skills and tasks across the ACC (ongoing).
- Explore methods of data collection to measure the impact of evangelization.
- Convene regular leadership training and development sessions for council, commission, committee members, and staff which includes a component of evangelization.
- Develop a shared Human Resources function for the ACC.

2025 Goal:

- Establish a central Youth & Family Life Center.

Smart Goal #2: To expand our community, we will reach out to inactive Catholics and/or those with no faith formation and increase church membership by 10% by 2025.

2020 Goals:

- Implement door-to-door evangelization efforts within ACC geographical area preceded by formation for volunteers and the parishes, and followed by theological reflection.
- Share findings and discuss possible responses with councils and other leadership groups in the parishes.

2023 Goals:

- Reach out to those not in pews for reasons why they aren't attending through surveys, questionnaires, and interviews.
- Develop specific pathways in intergenerational faith formation for those who need additional support and catechesis.
- Find ways to leverage social media and other platforms developed as above to broaden outreach.

Smart Goal #3: To increase involvement in the larger community (society,

family, institutions) by promoting and/or sponsoring at least 3 joint events each year.

2020 Goals:

- Develop community-based projects involving all ACC parishes (e.g. Feed My Starving Children, Kids Fighting Hunger, spiritual and/or inspirational speakers, community music programs, etc.); these are community-wide events while focusing on increased participation.
- Convene leadership of existing service groups, organizations, and outreach efforts to brainstorm collaboration (e.g., Knights of Columbus, Legion of Mary, Mens and Womens' Groups, Stewardship Committees, etc).

2023 Goals:

- Create an annual event that draws people from parishes and community together around community building, service, and socializing (not a fundraiser).
- Develop opportunities to educate about contemporary social issues from a Catholic perspective (e.g. respect for life, human trafficking, substance abuse, homelessness and hunger, mental health, etc.).
- Increase participation in existing community service projects where our ACC can be most effective.