

# **Parish of St. Raymond**

## **5 year plan**

**September 2005 – December 2009**

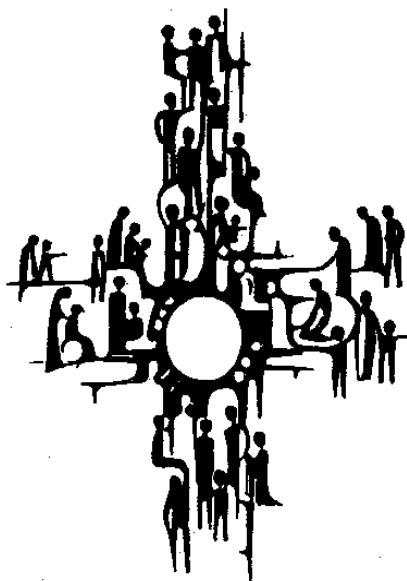
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**“I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the Gospel from the first day until now.”**

**St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 1:3-5**

**Presented to and prepared by: The People of St. Raymond Parish in collaboration with the Pastoral Council and Staff led by our Pastor, Reverend Bob McCann.**

# **ST. RAYMOND PARISH VISION STATEMENT**

**SAINT RAYMOND'S EMBRACES WHAT IT IS TO BE A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY. OUR RICH FAITH HERITAGE GUIDES US AS A WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES LIVING THE GOSPEL MESSAGE OF JESUS CHRIST, WHO IS THE SOURCE OF ALL WE ARE AND DO. NOURISHED BY LITURGY AND PERSONAL PRAYER, AS LIVED IN SERVICE TO GOD'S PEOPLE, WE ARE OPEN TO ALL, MAKING IT A PLACE OF WORSHIP FOR MANY FACES BUT ONE FAMILY.**

## **ST. RAYMOND PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

**IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL, WE ARE CALLED UPON AS THE PEOPLE OF SAINT RAYMOND CATHOLIC COMMUNITY TO GROW IN OUR COMMITMENT TO THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND TO EACH OTHER, THROUGH OUR WORSHIP, SERVICE AND COMMUNITY EFFORTS. WE WILL STRIVE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS MISSION BY FOLLOWING THE TEN ESSENTIALS OF PARISH LIFE.**

We do this by:

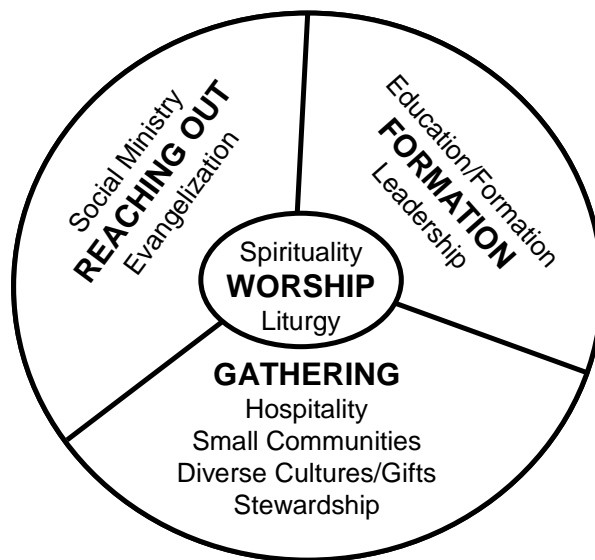
- **providing** for the spiritual and physical needs of our members as they are made known to us;
- **providing** quality religious education for all ages through a comprehensive catechetical program that is sensitive to and nurtures the individual's faith journey within our community;
- **welcoming** all people with loving openness and hospitality; and
- **responding** to the diversity of all our members by providing avenues of expression specific to their needs.

The **SIGN** and **SOURCE** of our unity is the celebration of the **Eucharist** and all the sacraments as well as the vitality of our liturgical life. Continuing to enliven our faith through the Holy Spirit is central to our mission of giving ever-clearer witness to the kingdom of God.

# **INTRODUCTION**

The People of St. Raymond have collaborated through participation in parish ministries, committees and organizations with members of the Pastoral Council and Pastoral Staff to prepare this 5-Year Plan. In 1992, the Pastoral Council decided to implement a planning process for the entire parish, which would allow continual updating of the Plan. Our purpose is to evaluate how we are carrying forward the vision of the 5-Year Plan. All of this is undertaken through much prayer and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our goal is to make the good news of the Gospel, our Mission Statement, and our ministries an integrated reality.

As a Parish we will strive to live the Ten Essentials of Parish Life as developed by the Diocesan Pastoral Council. The model represented below encompasses The Ten Essentials of Parish Life. For a parish to be a vibrant community, each of the Ten Essentials must be present in some degree.



We encourage all parishioners to become involved in carrying out our mission as God's people. We invite each parishioner to pray for God's guidance and to seek a place in the exciting reality of God's work among us and through us to our community and world.

WE, THE COMMUNITY OF ST. RAYMOND PARISH, ARE COMMITTED TO:

- **deepening** our spiritual life through ongoing education, enhanced liturgical celebrations, and an expanded sense of community;
- **inviting** to fuller participation in our community those marginalized people whose needs we have not traditionally met;
- **providing** avenues of outreach into our local and neighboring communities by developing awareness of others' needs as well as an awareness of our call to apply Gospel values in meeting those needs;
- **continuing** to accommodate our parish growth by assessing and implementing facility upgrades to all areas of our parish plant to meet requirements of programs, both existing and planned.

*“...A living faith, the faith that does justice, is expressed in the active love of others.”(Matthew 25)*

### #1: Spirituality

- Spirituality is the relationship between oneself, God and the Community around us.

Goals:

- Speak the message of the Gospel clearly in our educational programs, liturgical services and in our gatherings as people of faith.
- Give witness to our faith in the expression of our daily activities.
- Provide opportunities for deepening prayer life and reflecting on the life of the Spirit.

*“... And the disciples came to the Lord Jesus and said, “Lord teach us to pray.” (LK 11)*

### #2: Liturgy

- Saint Raymond's liturgies are a prayerful and spiritual experience that invites people to fuller participation through our senses of sight, sound, smell, word and touch. We reaffirm God's continual presence among us through our Liturgies that are celebrations of the whole Church, the entire Community.

Goals:

- Assure that liturgical celebrations invite all of the community to prayer and action.
- Provide preaching that relates to the scriptures of the Sunday and to the lives of the people living here.
- Train liturgical ministers who represent the diversity of our parish in age, gender, and ethnicity.

*“... God commanded our ancestors to teach their children; so that the generation to come might know, and that they too may rise and declare to their children that they should put their hope in God.”*  
(Psalm 78:6)

### #3: Faith Formation

- Strong faith formation programs for both adults and children are basic to a successful parish.

#### Goals:

- Provide ongoing faith formation for all Catholics.
- Support catechists and school staff in their efforts for continual formation and certification.
- Develop faith formation that is life-long in order that adults can fulfill their leadership roles in this new era of church ministry.
- Show that faith formation benefits children and youth by enriching the parent's role as their children's teachers, and by setting an example to the children that learning about God does not end with Confirmation.

*“... But if I wash your feet-I who am Teacher and Lord-then you must wash each other's feet.”* (John 13:14)

### #4: Leadership

- Finding and developing leadership potential is essential if individuals are to take their God-given place in the Body of Christ. We hear often that Christ has no hands and feet on earth but ours. We encourage our parishioners to place their hands, feet, and minds in God's service.

#### Goals:

- Foster dialogue so that organizations, ministries and staff can work together collaboratively.
- Offer opportunities for discernment of gifts so parishioners can clarify their talents and see how they can serve as leaders.

*“... Let us welcome one another as if we are welcoming Christ Himself.”* (Saint Benedict)

## #5: Belonging/Hospitality

- The parish spirit of hospitality exemplifies Christ's welcome and inclusive love for all. The parish community embodies stewardship; the members consider themselves hosts and stewards, not guests. To steward is to welcome. True hospitality requires a welcoming spirit that fosters every parishioner's sense of belonging, of being a part of a parish family. A true sense of hospitality is a catalyst for developing all the essentials of parish life.

### Goals:

- Encourage parishioners as the Body of Christ to follow the example of Jesus in sharing our love, our welcome, our giving.
- Inform the assembly that welcoming those who attend our liturgies is a ministry for the entire parish, not only a committee.
- Train greeters and leaders in cultural sensitivity to reach out to visitors and newcomers.

*"... Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst."* (Matthew 18:20)

## #6: Small Christian Communities (SCC)

- Many different kinds of groups within a parish may function as Small Christian Communities. The hallmark of a true "small community" is long term Christian growth in an atmosphere that embodies on a small scale the attributes of the Church. The small community is a sample of the parish as a whole.

### Goals:

- Encourage Small Christian Communities to meet on a regular basis.
- Promote adult faith formation through Small Christian Communities which offer shared study, shared experience, and community service.
- Utilize the small communities in your effort to welcome the stranger.
- Inspire and invite others in the parish to grow spiritually through involvement in a small community.

*"... God distributed gifts in such a way that no one has all of them because God wanted to make us dependent on one another."* (St. Catherine of Siena)

## #7: Diverse Cultures

- A parish is richly blessed when it is endowed with a variety of gifts among its parishioners, including a diversity of age, sex, culture, skills, and living conditions. These gifts are not truly appreciated until they are recognized, respected and incorporated into parish life. Diversity within a parish is seen as a mosaic rather than a melting pot. We make our diversity visible in our liturgical and social assemblies.

### Goals:

- Use parish census surveys to identify gifts and cultural or ethnic diversities and needs.
- Renew our efforts to ensure that representative committees, ministries and the Pastoral Council reflect the makeup of the parish.

*“... As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” (1 Peter 4:10)*

## #8: Stewardship

- God empowers us through the Holy Spirit, to reach out and respond to the needs of one another, to build the reign of God. A good steward discerns his or her time, talent and treasure and uses those in ministry in the family, parish, workplace and community. We return a portion of our gifts to God in gratitude for God’s abundant generosity. That is the basis for Stewardship.

### Goals:

- Encourage the parish itself to practice good stewardship of all the resources given to it.
- Inspire parishioners by having the parish continue to give outside itself.
- Increase the percentage of people who give to the parish on a regular basis.
- Make stewardship a way of life.

*“... What you did for the least of these, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40)*

## #9: Social Ministry

- As followers of Christ, we are called to live out the values of our faith in the world, serving our brothers and sisters, and working for greater justice and peace in the world. We are at our best when we hear and heed the church's call to serve those in need and work for justice and peace.

### Goals:

- Encourage parishioners to share their gifts and resources to meet the basic needs of those who are hungry, ill, aging, and homeless.
- Promote study, conversation, prayer, and action on the political and social issues of our day, including a range of local **and** global concerns.

*"... Preach the gospel at all times, if necessary use words."*  
(Saint Francis of Assisi)

## #10: Evangelization

- We bear much fruit when we live and share our faith in Jesus enthusiastically. We invite and welcome inactive Catholics and the unchurched to share the Good News.

### Goals:

- Identify parish resources to develop an evangelization program.
- Reach out to returning Catholics.
- Encourage families to talk about their faith life together and help them to be comfortable in sharing faith.

## Summary

We are the hands and feet of Christ on earth. He is calling to each of us. In His name we invite everyone to answer His call and use their God-given talents to build the body of Christ here at St. Raymond Church. Call the Parish Office today and share your gifts.

### **St. Raymond Pastoral Council**

**Rev. Robert J. McCann, Pastor**

**Tom McClean, President**

**Rosann Russo**

**Georgia Cestaro**

**Dave Conley**

**Connie Spence**

**Judy Wellemeyer**

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