

Pastoral Planning Task Force Recommendations February 2020

The Catholic Community of Meadville Pastoral Planning Task Force chose to focus on evaluating Phase One and Phase Two of the Pastoral Planning Process.

The Pastoral Planning Task Force has listened to you as parishioners and has formulated these recommendations for your consideration. Your written feedback will be welcomed until Saturday, February 29, 2020. Drop in weekly collection basket or return to the Parish Office. We appreciate your thoughts and ideas.

You may note that some of the parts to Goal One through Six have started and are underway.

Goals Seven and Eight are part of Phase Three and will need to be further researched and explored and with specific information shared in a few months.

PASTORAL PLANNING PROCESS:

PHASE ONE: DETERMINE THE FUTURE DIRECTION AND GROWTH OF THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF MEADVILLE

PHASE TWO: IMPLEMENTING FAITH FORMATION INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

GOAL ONE: ONE UNIFIED FAITH COMMUNITY WITH ONE CATHOLIC IDENTITY, ONE PARISH

A. Promote a Unified Catholic Identity for the Catholic Community of Meadville.

1. A Unified Catholic Identity statement is formulated and shared with the Parishioners (such as: *“To create a unified spiritual community guided by the Holy Spirit to glorify Jesus Christ through worship, prayer, education, celebration and evangelization.”*)
2. In all communications, the unified vision of the Catholic Community of Meadville is promoted. (Web site, bulletin, letters, pulpit announcements, etc.)
3. Acknowledge and affirm ways the unity of CCM that currently exists – combined parish picnic; cross engagement in ministries and groups; engagement and desire of parishioners to be more unified.

B. Develop one combined interactive parish with services, programs and events consolidated.

1. Consolidation Sheet will be prepared that lists all the Organizations/Groups, Events/Functions, Special Services, etc. that the three parishes have existing. It will list the meeting information and group leaders. Anything connected with the three parishes needs to be evaluated.
2. The group will set its goals as a unified group and extend an open invitation for others to become active members.

C. Identify an ad hoc Liturgy and Worship Committee to study and develop a unified plan for worship services.

Your Thoughts . . .

GOAL TWO: BECOME MORE OF A VIBRANT AND WELCOMING PARISH THAT IS INCLUSIVE AND ENCOURAGES PARTICIPATION.

- A. Welcome new parishioners
- B. Recruit and maintain greeters to ensure presence at all Masses at each entrance.
- C. Be inclusive as possible regarding those engaged in the ministries of greeters, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and ushers.
- D. Develop ways for all parishioners to be more of a welcoming and hospitable faith community.

Your Thoughts . . .

GOAL THREE: THROUGH SETON SCHOOL AND A STRONG RELIGIOUS PROGRAM FOCUS ON YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS AND EMPLOY A YOUTH DIRECTOR.

- A. Hire a full-time Youth Minister/Faith Formation Director.
- B. Form Small Group Communities among the youth, within the context of youth group, mixing Seton kids and Faith Formation so they get to know each other better.
- C. Strengthen the preparation for Confirmation.

Your Thoughts . . .

GOAL FOUR: CONTINUE TO FOSTER EVANGELIZATION AND LIFE-LONG FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES THAT SUPPORTS FAMILY LIFE AND VALUES.

- A. Build Scripture proficiency for all ages in such a way that it integrates into doctrinal and liturgical Faith Formation and the youth ministry program.
- B. Continue to promote enrichment classes on doctrine, moral theology, and Scripture along with other faith formation topics.

Your Thoughts . . .

GOAL FIVE: FOCUSING ON BROADENING THE EFFORTS OF COMMUNICATION TO REACH MORE AUDIENCES.

- A. Reformat and refresh the bulletin.
- B. Utilize social media and email to effectively communicate to parishioners and the general public.
- C. Investigate other steps and programs (such as Flocknote) as the pastoral planning progresses.
- D. Identify person or persons to be responsible for keeping the website and information up to date on social media platforms.

Your Thoughts . . .

GOAL SIX: EVALUATE CURRENT OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES AND ESTABLISH WAYS TO ENCOURAGE AND ENHANCE MORE OUTREACH AND VOLUNTEERS.

- A. Establish outreach and volunteer opportunities on our “new” church website with volunteer office help.
- B. Include outreach and volunteer opportunities in Welcome Packet.
- C. Encourage Personal outreach to recruit volunteers for ministries and committees.
- D. Maintain pictorial Parish Directory to further outreach opportunities.
- E. Explore social media, i.e., Facebook, Instagram, for posting volunteer opportunities.
- F. Continue parish (community-wide) picnic by recruiting new volunteers to assist core committee.

Your Thoughts . . .

PHASE THREE: ASSESSING THE ROLE OF THE PHYSICAL PLANT IN THE PARISH'S PLAN

PLEASE NOTE: These goals are currently being explored. You will be notified once the physical plant assessment with its analysis is completed.

GOAL SEVEN: ONE UNIFIED FAITH COMMUNITY WITH ONE PARISH AND ONE WORSHIP SPACE.

- A. Determine the physical structure needs of the One Parish**
 - 1. Complete a Physical Plant Assessment and a thorough study of needs analysis for capacity, condition, current and future projections and opportunities, maintenance issues, and predictions of updates and replacements.
 - 2. Pending the results of the assessment, the Parish Leadership, the Pastoral and Finance Council, along with the Pastoral Planning Task Force will determine specific recommendations for best and most appropriate use to meet the vision and mission for one unified Faith Community for the properties, buildings and their usage.
- B. Determine considerations that include but are not limited to worship space, fellowship space for gatherings and dinners, meeting and classroom space, office space, and living space.**
- C. These recommendations will be subject to written feedback from the parishioners.**

GOAL EIGHT: BECOME ONE PARISH CANONICALLY AND LEGALLY

- A. Study the options for becoming one parish, whether naming one of the existing churches to be the one worship site or establishing a new site.**
- B. Study the options for suppression of the three current parishes with the possibility of becoming one new Parish with one new identity and a new name.**
- C. Choose the most feasible option with the affirmation of the Parish Leadership, Pastoral and Financial Council along with the Pastoral Planning Task Force and the Diocese.**
- D. Involve the Diocese and legal assistance in this process to determine feasibility and steps in this canonical and legal process.**
- E. Plan a Families First Celebration for all the Parishioners as the founders of a new entity for the Catholic Community of Meadville.**

Your Thoughts . . .

Signature (Optional) _____ Date _____

Your input and ideas are important to the viable future of the Catholic Community of Meadville.
Thank you for your time and prayers!