

**St. Ignatius of Loyola  
Catholic Church**

**A Vision for Our Future**



March 2004

By the Parish Council

**An Introduction from the Vision Committee**

Imagine yourself on a journey. To prepare, you will need to chart a course, pack provisions and to be successful, you will have to make adjustments along the way. Our spiritual journey as a Church family is no different. Currently we have over (1000) families and growing ! Through prayer we must plan for our future. Last (fall a subcommittee) of the Parish Council met over many months examining every aspect of our parish life and mission. From that committee (evolved) a strategic plan. The mission imperatives described below bring to life the important areas of our Church community: Education, Evangelization, Liturgy, Service, Stewardship and Ongoing Planning and Support. The charge of the Vision Committee is to oversee the plans for each of these areas, facilitate adjustments where needed and spearhead future planning to meet our Parishes ever-changing needs.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

As a Catholic Community of Faith in Southern Frederick County, St. Ignatius of Loyola proclaims the presence of Christ through our worship, witness, teaching, learning, service and concern for justice. We seek to:

- ☪ Support the spiritual, physical and social needs of each individual within the community.
- ☪ Develop programs and activities that support the fundamental unit of the Christian life—the FAMILY.
- ☪ Encourage and promote an ecumenical spirit with other religious and community-minded groups in our area.
- ☪ Support growth of our Church by giving of our time, talent, and resources.

**(OUR) MISSION IMPERATIVES**

**Education**

**Goal:** To provide varied educational opportunities to our Parish children, youth/young adults, and adult parishioners, as well as to those on the parish staff and those serving in ministries.

**Rationale:** Educational opportunities would allow for a better understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the foundation of our existence. Knowledge of our faith will enable us to better live and share our faith.

**Summary of the Action Steps:** Develop plans for education space on the Ijamsville campus, ongoing recruitment and training of catechists and evaluate sacramental preparation programs (for our growing and changing needs).

## **Evangelization**

**Goal:** To be a welcoming and nurturing family of faith, by proclaiming the Gospel and sharing in an active faith with those in our community at large.

**Rationale:** Baptism calls us to share our faith and to serve God by serving those around us.

**Summary of Action Steps:** Develop excellent communication with the parish, expand the RCIA program through outreach, focus on unchurched Catholics, host a parish mission and foster better relations with the community through open houses, music ministry, youth programs, ecumenical services, etc.

## **Liturgy**

**Goal:** To develop the worship and sacramental life of the parish so that all are nourished in faith and invited to full participation in sacrament and prayer. Through this, we put our Catholic faith into action.

**Rationale:** Jesus charged his disciples to carry forth his mission to be builders of God's kingdom. The foundation of this mission is the celebration of the Eucharist.

**Summary of Action Steps:** Enhance the worship life of the parish, and our liturgical ministers through educational opportunities, and increasing infrastructure. Evaluate the worship needs of our youth, and special needs populations. Develop the music/instrumental/vocal balance of services, and functionality of the worship space. Explore options for sacramental staffing.

Reach out to the parish and larger community to increase involvement in liturgical events such as Holy Week Services and Christmas Masses.

## **Service**

**Goal:** Called by faith to serve God's people, we at St. Ignatius strive to meet that calling through various types of service.

**Rationale:** "Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you have done for me."

**Summary of Action Steps:** Help parishioners understand that service is an integral part of our faith. Do this by: developing opportunities for participation in all ministries; expanding Healthcare, Bereavement, Social Concerns, and Justice Ministries; assist special needs populations; witnessing to our faith through our action in our own parish as well as the community at large.

## **Stewardship**

**Goal:** To create a sense of ownership of the parish by all members through the use and development of our God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure.

**Rationale:** God calls us through faith to use the gifts we have been given for the benefit of all. Much is expected from those to whom much has been given.

**Summary of Action Steps:** Invite the parish community to give of their time, talent and treasury and make the parish members aware of the needs. Create (a) fundraising subcommittee to help balance the budget and concentrate on debt reduction. Create a Development Committee to plan a pay down strategy for the current debt as well as strategies for funding of capital improvement needs. Examine alternatives to weekly second collections. Make sure our hard-working staff members are paid a fair wage. Achieve greater adherence to archdiocesan policy in the handling of money and parish assets.

## **OTHER ~ (ONGOING PLANNING AND SUPPORT)**

**Goal:** To create an environment that will support our mission as God's people.

**Rationale:** With the right tools we can accomplish our goals and our parish mission.

**Summary of Action Steps:** Ensure that the Parish Council governing documents are relevant to the needs of our community. Work to provide greater awareness of the organization structures at the parish. Define the roles and functions of our ministries and groups and the leadership parameters. Develop and implement the Facilities Improvement/Expansion Master Plan in a timely manner. Keep up with technology to meet parish needs.

## **AN INVITATION FOR YOU**

It is important that we all share in this vision...this dream for our future. Our parish is made up of many who are one. God is our master planner and we must journey on together with a plan.. At St. Ignatius we have many groups and staff that do a fabulous job meeting the daily needs of our parish. (With) so many groups working together, it is imperative that there be a central group that keeps us all on the same track towards our long term goals. We, the Vision Committee (of the Parish Council, have been charged with serving in that capacity. We) hope that this brochure gives you helpful information on the direction that we are headed, and more importantly, gives you inspiration.

To give us feedback, ask questions or volunteer your talents, please contact us:

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To view the entire Parish Strategic Plan (go to [www.e-stignatius.org](http://www.e-stignatius.org))