

## Infant of Prague Parish Plan 2011

### **PRIORITY – PROMOTE THE LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON**

*Goal A:* The Parish will provide resources on the social mission of the Church and of every baptized Catholic. The Council will invite a speaker twice yearly (during Advent and Lent) to present information on the social mission of the Church. The speakers will be sought from the Diocesan staff.

*Goal B:* The Parish Council will establish a liaison Pro-Life chair to assist with the Pro-Life efforts of the parish. This will be an appointment by the Pastor. The existing efforts of the Parish will be exhorted whenever possible. These include: The efforts to promote “Children are a Gift From God” a non-violent, gentle reminder of the sanctity of the unborn life. The parishioners involved with this initiative would welcome any further support from the parish. The billboard currently displayed has been funded in part by dollars from that group, and underwritten by the billboard corporation, Fairways. This billboard is on Highway 24, east of the Main Gate heading westbound; The local Respect Life group is lead by a parishioner. The Council will request that she assist the Parish Council as we explore ways to further promulgate respect for the full spectrum of life. The Council will offer support (financial or otherwise) to the local Crisis Pregnancy Center. Referrals for pregnant women in crises will be encouraged. Information about this resource will be made available to parishioners in the brochure racks at the entrances to the Church.

*Goal C:* The Parish will be a resource for discernment and development of ministries to specific populations in our community, such as the elderly, prison ministry and hospital ministry. The Parish will enhance the existing ministry to the elderly, already in place. The two Britthaven Nursing Homes and Carebridge are already receiving ministerial services for their elderly residents. Any additional rest homes and nursing homes will be added to these. The needs of the elderly will be addressed in a comprehensive and compassionate way. If parishioners require training in service delivery, it will be provided. Homebound elders will continue to be assessed for their needs.

As we work on offering ministry to prisoners, John Marks will contact Gary Freeman about the already-existing Christian prison ministry. The possibility of some members of the parish (notably, the Legion of Mary) accompanying others who minister to the incarcerated will be explored. The option for a bereavement ministry is being explored. This will include a “Drop Everything and Cook” plan for providing a reception meal after a parishioner’s funeral, upon request. Visitation for the bereaved is also being considered. Reviving the concept of a Women’s Guild may be helpful. Should this require training for interested parishioners, the Council will assist with providing this training. The Stephen Ministry project will be re-examined as a possible means to meet the needs of our parishioners in crisis. The Hospitality Ministry will be better defined. The Council will rely on points of contact in the community to assist with this effort (notably, Gerald Brandon at Onslow Memorial Hospital). A better understanding of ministry to hospitalized patients will be sought.

*Goal D:* Deferred pending further information from the Diocese.

*Goal E:* Deferred, since there is no residential college campus in this community at this time.

*Goal F:* Deferred, as we await Diocesan input regarding an educational plan for youth and young adults. As our parish continues to advance our current youth group, we will plan to provide educational opportunities for parents in our parish on providing for protection from Internet crimes against children. The State Bureau of Investigation is an excellent resource for this education.

*Goal G:* The parish will develop and implement a plan to reduce poverty in our community, in concert with national effort led by Catholic Charities USA. The Council will pursue with Catholic Charities of the New Bern Deanery an expansion of their programs of assistance to include our parish, especially with regards to the Pharmacy Assistance Program. The work with the Parish Thrift Shop will continue and will be expanded as resources allow. The Food Pantry will continue to provide the excellent service to the parish and the community.

*Goal H:* Deferred awaiting Diocesan input regarding justice for immigrants.

## **PRIORITY – FOCUS ON FAITH FORMATION AND SACRAMENTAL PRACTICE**

*Goal A:* The parish will provide adult education opportunities in Scripture and the catechism of the Catholic Church.

*Goal B:* The parish will continue the Welcome Home initiative, and recruit more team members to participate in the RCIA and Welcome Home programs.

*Goal C:* The parish will encourage implementation of the revised Catechetical Institute, the Diocesan key adult catechetical formation effort.

*Goal D:* Parish evangelization plans will target the Hispanic community and young adults. Hispanic youth participate with the general youth group. The parish will develop a program to attract and retain young adults, ages 18-25 years. A needs assessment survey may help in the development of the program

*Goal E:* The parish will ensure that the Sacraments are being celebrated according to the Rites, following Diocesan revised Sacramental Guidelines.

*Goal F:* The parish will follow guidance issued by the Diocese about the English translation of the *Missale Romanum, editio typical tertia* (Roman Missal Third Edition).

*Goal G:* The parish will implement the revised Catholic school religious curriculum as directed by the Diocese.

*Goal H:* The parish will implement the restructured and revised catechetical guidelines of parish based faith formation programs, according to the Diocesan directions.

*Goal I:* The parish will conduct and coordinate training sessions for parish liturgical ministries, including parish music ministers, lectors, altar servers, Eucharistic Ministers. These will be offered at least twice yearly.

*Goal J:* The parish will develop a program of effective social ministry which provides parishioners with opportunities to participate in stewardship through outreach efforts. The parish will explore options for distribution of donations through out Faith Formation program. The Parish Council will consider modifying the application form for Faith Formation to include information about free lunch eligibility, allowing for resource distribution.

*Goal K:* The parish will offer catechesis for parents in support of their children's learning and participation in parish-based Faith Formation programs.

*Goal L:* Contact the Campus Ministry Director at the Diocese to obtain pamphlets, brochures and information to provide students heading off to college to assist promoting their faith.

### **PRIORITY – CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

*Goal A:* Parish will implement Diocesan suggestions. This may necessitate the formation of a cultural diversity subcommittee.

*Goal B:* The parish will continue to support the school's diversity efforts.

*Goal C:* The parish will pursue offering a curriculum for RCIA in Spanish

### **PRIORITY – PROMOTE VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD & CONSECRATED LIFE**

*Goal A:* The Parish Council will develop and promote a Parish Chalice program.

*Goal B:* The Parish Council will support the Diocesan program of St. Andrew's dinners by encouraging interested men & women to attend and promote awareness of the dinners.

*Goal C:* The Parish Council will support and implement the Diocesan Vocational Awareness programs for the school and Faith Formation programs. The Parish Council will invite the Diocesan Vocational Director to visit and to preach the homily at all masses and to present to our Youth Group, as well as to stay to visit the school and Confirmation classes.

### **PRIORITY – IMPLEMENT THE PASTORAL INITIATIVE ON MARRIAGE**

*Goal A:* The Parish Council will develop a subcommittee to support the USCCB Pastoral Initiative on Marriage. The Council will invite Diocesan experts to provide marriage enrichments, to include opportunities in Spanish.

*Goal B:* A local goal is for the parish staff to invite members of the Diocesan Tribunal to address the topics of marriage, remarriage and annulments in the Catholic Church. This will be offered in English & Spanish.

*Goal C:* The staff will develop a resource book to inform parishioners of community providers whose practice is consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

*Goal D:* The Parish Council will explore ways to reach out to young married couples who need to have their marriages blessed in the Catholic Church.

*Goal E:* Parish staff will encourage parishioners to access information on the Diocesan website via bulletin announcements.

*Goal F:* The parish will implement any Diocesan programs addressing marriage preparation with special emphasis on the unique needs of military families as well as immigrant families.

## **PRIORITY – PRACTICE THE EFFECTIVE STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES**

*Goal A:* The parish will assist the faithful in understanding of time, talent and treasure and in developing active individual and parish responses. The parish will develop an active Stewardship Committee to educate the parish on what stewardship is through speakers, homilies and individual parishioner's testimonies. A power point will be developed to promote the various parish ministries and information will be put on the parish website.

*Goal B:* The parish will request from the Diocese a more specific list of what the BAA provides to the parish and how it benefits our parish families. The Stewardship Committee will invite a spokesperson from the BAA Office to come at a time other than the BAA Campaign and speak at all the masses about the various ministries supported by the BAA.

*Goal C:* Invite members of the parish to be on the Stewardship Committee to ensure the entire demographics of the parish are represented.

*Goal D:* Parish will host a planned giving program with the assistance from the Diocese.

*Goal E:* Parish will cooperate to the fullest extent to participate in the Capital Campaign.

*Goal F:* Continue our commitment to support our local Catholic school.