

PROPOSAL TO THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF SS. PETER AND PAUL'S CHURCH
FROM THE SSPP SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

THREE YEAR PLAN FOR STRENGTHENING OUR OUTREACH
IN THE SSPP NEIGHBORHOOD

"Teacher, which commandment of the law is the greatest?" Jesus said, "'You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments the whole law is based, and the prophets as well."

Matthew 22:36-40

- F I N A L -

NOVEMBER 6, 1990

Background and Context

Ss. Peter and Paul Parish has been actively engaged in outreach ministry to the neighborhood for many years. St. Peter's Kitchen, the Clothing Center, the Day Care Center, the Mutual Housing Project and our participation in the SWEM Emergency Food Program are all examples of our active social ministry. The role of the Social Ministry Committee of the SSPP Parish Council is to integrate our outreach efforts and provide direction for future parish initiatives.

In July 1989, the Social Ministry Committee of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish sponsored a neighborhood picnic and anti-drug march. It was a memorable day and we agreed to keep up our efforts in reaching out to the neighborhood residents. By February 1990, we had developed a work plan to help us gather information in order to decide what our next steps would be. From March until September we implemented our work plan. A neighborhood survey became the major focus of our work.

Throughout the summer of 1990 we talked with 187 neighborhood residents. Increasingly, we became more excited and hope-filled as we were warmly welcomed by so many people. We took the results of the survey and developed a working draft. We held a Parish Forum on October 28th and also met with St. Peter's Kitchen guests. Overall, the response has been very positive, with lots of ideas being suggested. This final proposal reflects some minor additions.

Guiding Assumptions

1. The mission of Saints Peter and Paul Parish is to be a committed, caring community of believers in Jesus the Savior and Lord, united in the Spirit and called to worship God, to love and serve one another and to proclaim in word, deed, and attitude the Good News of the Kingdom of God. We strive to do this by sharing our gifts in the portion of the Vineyard where we have been planted - serving and welcoming all, as Jesus did, and by responding in faith to local, national and global issues of justice and peace. (Parish Vision Statement in the Parish Council Constitution)
2. Social ministry is the studied, prayerful interaction of the People of God with various facets of society, for the common good and the salvation of the world. Social ministry takes place when the values, vision and teachings of Jesus are brought to bear on social conditions.
3. The work of the Social Ministry Committee involves both direct acts of charity and actions to establish justice in our neighborhood, our nation and in the world.
4. Working with the residents of the neighborhood, not just for the residents is essential. We want to be partners in creating a non-violent, supportive environment for individuals, families and children to live and grow.
5. We want to effectively act to improve the neighborhood while consciously ensuring that residents will not be displaced and that our efforts do not duplicate existing services or activities.

PROPOSED THREE YEAR PLAN OF ACTION

Goal

In three years we will have established a membership-based community center which enables the residents of the neighborhood of Ss. Peter and Paul to address their social, cultural, economic and spiritual well-being.

First Year Objectives (July 1, 1990 - June 30, 1991)

- * Recruit and provide leadership development to core planning group which will meet regularly to implement this plan of action. Members will come from interested residents identified through the surveying as well as from our parish community.
- * Plan and promote participation in summer-long activities for adults and children which will introduce and involve more residents in our plans for a community center.
- * Explore our financial needs and potential sources; work to secure financial commitments to support our efforts.
- * Develop a personnel plan for the staffing of the project in its second and third years.

Second Year Objectives (July 1, 1991 - June 30, 1992)

- * Expand the membership-base of the community center to at least 100 participants through a membership campaign.
- * Implementation of planned summer-long activities involving at least 50 people.
- * Develop the plan for establishing the physical location of the community center.
- * Plan year-long social, cultural, economic and spiritual activities for the third year. If possible, conduct at least one such activity in the Spring of the second year.
- * Necessary staff in place to accomplish second year objectives.

Third Year Objectives (July 1, 1992 - June 30, 1993)

- * Implementation of planned year-long activities.
- * Staffing in place for implementation of third year objectives.
- * Membership-base expanded to at least 200 members.
- * Conduct 1st annual meeting of the entire membership to elect community center leadership and celebrate our neighborhood's richness.

Rationale

We used the Neighborhood Survey Results and our experience of surveying as the basis for developing this proposal. Two major thrusts came out of our discussions in our group planning process: 1) the need for the neighborhood community to be organized and working together; and 2) the needs of children and youth to have positive options and activities. Out of this evolved our goal for a membership-based community center.

We believe that a community center is a means to an end result. That end result is: to enable the residents of the neighborhood to address their social, cultural, economic and spiritual well-being. We see this as a wholistic approach which invites individuals to solve their own problems and participate in solving the problems of the community together.

As a membership-based community center, residents will be able to participate in the overall direction and activities of the center. We believe this is the most authentic way of creating participation and building a strong sense of community-ownership. We believe that as members of the community center, the residents of the neighborhood will be able to take their visions for the neighborhood and work together to make them a reality. Finally, residents who become members will be asked to make a commitment to a written set of values upon which the community center will operate. We believe this is the key to ensuring that the community center will be a safe and supportive environment.

Additional Information

* Until paid staff are in place, the proposed work will be coordinated by volunteers. The core planning group will initially be a subcommittee of the SSPP Social Ministry Committee.

* We will not be asking Ss. Peter and Paul's Parish to contribute any money from our operating budget. We will seek funding from grants.

* In all three years, we will thoughtfully evaluate our work to ensure its effectiveness and incorporate any changes that are deemed necessary.

* The following two pages are summaries of our data and information gathered from the neighborhood survey. Within the area surveyed, we interviewed 50% of the total housing units which were not vacant or boarded up.

* The Social Ministry Committee will form a subcommittee which will meet separately from our regular monthly meetings. This subcommittee will serve as the planning group. Residents from the neighborhood will make up 50% of the membership on the subcommittee.

* All the work compiled in this proposal could not have been done without the support and efforts of many other people besides the committee members. We are deeply grateful for the generous contributions of everyone.

SS. PETER AND PAUL PARISH

PRIORITY GOALS FOR OUR INTERNAL MISSION 1991 - 1993

Background

In April 1991, the Parish Council of SSPP gathered together for a full day of planning and priority-setting. Twelve major areas of concern were raised up: worship, communication, our physical plant, impact of population trends, Christian formation, community building, our role within the diocesan Church, evangelization, finances, our relationship with the Sacred Hearts Community, the work of our outreach ministries and celebration of our 150th Anniversary in 1993.

After much discussion about work needing to be done, the Parish Council members and staff selected three equally important priority goals: 1) Worship; 2) Physical Plant; and 3) Community Building. During May and June, we worked on developing more concretely and specifically, the objectives and a timeframe that will help us accomplish our goals.

SS. Peter and Paul's Parish has very active and extensive outreach ministries, which are expressions of our social or external mission commitments. Our deliberate focus on our internal mission is meant to strengthen ourselves as a community of faith as well as strengthen our ability to continue our social identity and mission in our neighborhood and City.

Priority Goals and Objectives

I. WORSHIP

WHAT

WHO

WHEN

1. Develop a Plan for Inclusivity which addresses: cultural inclusivity; inclusive language; including the differently abled among us, especially by making our worship space more accessible and welcoming; inclusivity across the life cycle (people of all ages).

Liturgy Committee
& Pastoral Team

Access-
ibility
thru CRT;
all others
in '92-93

2. Address issues which will make our worship space more inviting through participation on the Church Renovations Team (see Physical Plant goal).

Representative(s)
of the Liturgy
Committee

See
Timeline
Below

3) Communication/Education Considerations: around how we worship, why we do what we do, why we make changes.

Liturgy Committee
& Pastoral Team

on-going
yet sys-
tematize

SSPP Priority Goals (continued)

II. PHYSICAL PLANT

WHAT

WHO

WHEN

1. Develop a Church Renovation Team (CRT) from a cross-section of the parish community to collaborate with the pastoral team, parish committees and other consultants to make recommendations to the Parish on liturgical, mission and structural considerations.

Pastoral Team in consultation with the Parish Council

CRT by 7/15/91

CRT Report by 5/1/92

2. Develop a comprehensive assessment of immediate maintenance and structural needs: painting, church steeple, roofs, rectory chimney, etc.

Building & Physical Plant Comm. and Maintenance Engineer

Fall 1991

III. COMMUNITY BUILDING

WHAT

WHO

WHEN

1. Develop a "Welcome Packet" for new parish members and others which gives an overview of who we are and what we do here at SSPP.

Ad-Hoc Committee of parishioners

July 91 to have ready by Sept. 91

2. Develop a Parish Directory which would include pictures and information on parish community members.

Ad-Hoc "Directory" Committee

Sept. 91 to have ready by 6/29/92

3. Make an assessment of our outreach to shut-ins to see if there are ways to improve this vital ministry and build a more direct link to the parish community.

Pastor & those involved with current outreach

Report to Parish Council by Jan. 1992

Adopted by the SS. Peter and Paul Parish Council on June 18, 1992