



ST. ANDRÉ BESSETTE PARISH

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**Special Meeting of the Pastoral Council
April 11, 2016
6:30pm, Notre Dame Parish Center**

Strategic Planning

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer

2. “Going with the flow...”

Maintenance vs. Mission

3. What is the work of a Catholic Parish?

Taking stock of our mission

4. What do we have to work with?

Taking stock of our resources

5. Making a plan

Establishing our priorities

Notes from special meeting on February 8, 2016

6. Actions steps

Where do we go from here?

7. Closing Prayer

Opening Prayer

Lord God,
source of every grace and blessing,
we give you thanks for the many gifts
that you have given to St. André Bessette Parish.
We seek to be good stewards of them, Lord.
Bless us who gather here.
We ask for courage and perseverance
in acknowledging difficulties
and identifying their solutions.
We ask for open minds,
that we might be wise and creative
in making complex decisions and planning for the future.
Send your Holy Spirit and be present among us
in the mouths of all who speak,
in the ears of all who listen,
and at the heart of all we say and do.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Prayer

Saint Brother André,
we celebrate your presence among us.
Your loving friendship with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
makes you a powerful intercessor with the Father.
Compassion carries your words straight to God's heart,
and your prayers are answered and bring comfort and healing.
Through you, from our lips to God's ear,
our supplications are heard.
We ask to be made a part of God's work, alongside you,
in the spirit of prayer, compassion and humility.

Saint André Bessette, pray for us.

“Going with the flow...”

How we've been operating (maintenance focused model):

1. **Our properties** and their needs (e.g. costs for fuel, upkeep, repairs) have dictated...
2. what **our programs** look like (e.g. what kind of space we have available, what money we have left), which in turn has dictated...
3. **who and how we are** as a parish community.

How we ought to operate (mission focused model):

1. **Who we want to be** as a parish community needs to dictate...
2. what sort of **programs we offer**, which should then dictate...
3. what **properties** we invest in.

What is the work of a Catholic Parish?

A. Ministries of the Word & Witness

Learn the faith: engaging the mind

1. Evangelization
2. Catechesis
3. Formation

B. Spiritual & Liturgical Ministries

Love the faith: engaging the heart

1. Sacraments
2. Devotions
3. Prayer

C. Ministries of Charity & Community

Live the faith: engaging the hands

1. Fellowship
2. Outreach
3. Stewardship

Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Welcome the stranger
- Heal the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Counsel the doubtful
- Instruct the ignorant
- Admonish sinners
- Comfort the afflicted
- Forgive offenses
- Bear patiently those who do us ill
- Pray for the living and the dead

What do we have to work with?

Physical Plant

Our Properties

Notre Dame: church/rectory/parish center property on E. Main St., cemetery on Andrus St., school on Homestead Pk., land on West St.

St. Helen's: church/rectory/hall property in Chasm Falls, church property in Owls Head, church property in Lake Titus, cemetery in Chasm Falls

St. John Bosco: church/hall/rectory property on Rennie St., cemetery on Constable St.

St. Joseph's: church/rectory property on W. Main St., cemetery on Fort Covington St., cemetery on Lake Titus Rd., land on Lake Titus Rd., house with garage on Rockland St.

Our Buildings

Notre Dame:	church, rectory, parish center, garage, school, cemetery vault, garage, thrift shop	8
St. Helen's:	churches (3), rectory, parish hall, cemetery shed	6
St. John Bosco:	church/hall, rectory/parish center, garage, cemetery vault	4
St. Joseph's:	church, rectory, house, garage, cemetery vault, sheds (2)	7
St. André's:	former Adult Center	1

26 buildings

Monetary Assets

Amount in DLF (Savings)	
June 30, 2014	\$672,501.13
June 30, 2015	\$692,163.45
April 6, 2016	\$472,163.45

Annual Income and Expense

Fiscal Year	Regular Envelopes	Ordinary Expenses
2013-2014	\$568,909.28	\$810,760.85
2014-2015	\$508,801.82	\$806,054.64
2015-2016*	\$367,722.91	\$606,159.17

**as of April 6, 2016*

Making a Plan

1. Consider who we want to be as a parish

What are our chief values?

What are the greatest needs of our parish community?

What are the greatest needs of the wider community?

What sort of presence should the Catholic Church have?

What does the Catholic Church have to offer?

How do we honor our past while looking to the future?

2. Consider what programs we need to offer

How should we concretely express these values?

What sort of programs and projects

would meet these needs and move us toward these goals?

3. Consider our properties and their use

What sort of physical structures are needed

to make these programs and projects possible?

How can we best utilize the buildings we already have?

What sort of financial resources are needed

to support these programs, projects, and facilities?

Are these resources available within our parish community?

Notes from special meeting on February 8, 2016

Our Values

Jesus Christ is our center

The Sacraments are our foundation

We exist to inspire our members and our neighbors to become saints
> We need to be saints to make saints

We give witness with love, respect, and support for all

Our Needs

Word & Witness—*Learn the faith: engaging the mind*

1. Evangelization

We need to meet people where they're at

> begin by building relationships

We need to give witness to our Catholic faith

> positive witness attracts

> show our love for God, the Church, the faith, the sacraments

We need to overcome the fear of sharing our faith

> faith is an everyday affair; not just for Church on Sundays

2. Catechesis

We need catechesis of the whole family (especially sacramental prep)

3. Formation

We need to form and support family life (help families to be families)

We need to foster vocations

Spiritual & Liturgical—*Love the faith: engaging heart and soul*

1. Sacraments

We need increased participation

> getting people to come to Mass

2. Devotions

3. Prayer

We need a place where people can pray any time (day or night)

Charity & Community—*Live the faith: engaging hands and feet*

1. Fellowship

- We need to be clear about our identity
 - > the parish is a community of believers, not buildings
- We need to get to know each other better
- We need to be welcoming (and not just when we're in church!)
 - > living our faith is an everyday matter
- We need social opportunities apart from Mass to get people together
 - > less formal occasions
 - > important for newcomers
- We need to inspire our youth
- We need to show our care for those who have fallen away
 - > find ways to re-inspire them
 - > provide them with support to come back
- We need our priests to be accessible and available

2. Outreach

- We need to embody the Corporal Works of Mercy
 - > must care for the body before we can care for the soul
- We need to be a force for wider renewal in the community
 - > give hope to a town that's fallen on hard times
- Needs of the wider of community:
 - > many basic human needs not being met
 - > for health care in line with dignity of the human person
 - especially for women/mothers/babies
 - > for counseling and spiritual support
 - > for recreation (especially youth)
 - need things to do, a safe place to drop in
 - > to know that life has meaning
 - > to know that people care
 - > to know that there's a God and he loves you

3. Stewardship

- We need increased lay "ownership" of the parish
 - > can't look to the priests for everything
 - > increase involvement and contributions
- We need better understanding of our duty to support the parish financially

<i>Corporal Works of Mercy</i>	<i>Spiritual Works of Mercy</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feed the hungry• Give drink to the thirsty• Clothe the naked• Welcome the stranger• Heal the sick• Visit the imprisoned• Bury the dead	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Counsel the doubtful• Instruct the ignorant• Admonish sinners• Comfort the afflicted• Forgive offenses• Bear patiently those who do us ill• Pray for the living and the dead

Possible Programs & Projects

Word & Witness—*Learn the faith: engaging the mind*

1. Evangelization

- > small groups where faith sharing can happen
- > retreats

2. Catechesis

3. Formation

Spiritual & Liturgical—*Love the faith: engaging heart and soul*

1. Sacraments

2. Devotions

- > pilgrimages

3. Prayer

- > Perpetual Adoration (good for the whole community)

Charity & Community—*Live the faith: engaging hands and feet*

1. Fellowship

- > greetings/introductions before Mass

2. Outreach

- > soup kitchen (to feed the poor and gather the wider community)
- > Gabriel Project (help in crisis pregnancies)

3. Stewardship