

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH, AUSTIN

PARISH REPORT ON DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN
GOALS, INITIATIVES AND OBJECTIVES

2017

ENCOUNTER that leads to TRANSFORMATION

The Diocese of Austin Pastoral Plan

What the diocese seeks to accomplish along with the parishes and missions within the Diocese of Austin:

- *Encounter - Encountering Jesus Christ leads to Transformation*
- *Ministry - Ministry transforms-creating a culture of collaboration*
- *Witness - Encounter with Jesus Christ and a transformed ministry nourishes inspiring and credible witness*



SPIRITUAL FORMATION that Leads to Encounter

I. Spiritual Formation of the Faithful

II. Family as Domestic Church

III. Renewed Sacramental Practice

Spiritual Formation of the Faithful

RCIA – This program is an ongoing part of the Adult Religious Education at Holy Cross.

Bible Study – This is a study group of adults who meet on Wednesday evenings each week.

Children's Liturgy – The children are blessed by the Pastor and taken to a classroom environment to gain a better understanding of the readings of the day.

Holy Rosary – The Rosary is prayed prior to the second Mass on Sunday mornings. All are welcome.

Annual Ministry Retreats – Heads of Ministry, Altar Rosary Society, ACTS Retreat, and Youth Lock-In Retreat, St. Augustine, and others

First Friday and First Saturday Devotions – All parishioners are welcome to attend in order to increasing prayer life. There are some parishioners from other parishes who attend the devotions from time to time.

Stewardship – Sunday Offertory collections have increased over the past year. The Holy Cross Wish List has been successful when large items or costly items are needed (Clavinova, altar vessels, etc.).

Day of Reflection – The Office of Black Catholics coordinates several per year at the Parish

FAMILY as Domestic Church

Annual Advent Revival – This event is planned by the Evangelization Ministry and encourages families, young adults, singles and other Catholic and Protestant churches in the community to attend.

Annual Days of Prayer – The African American Family Day of Prayer, World Aids Mass and Rosary, and Prayer for Vocations are three of many annual days of prayer celebrated at Holy Cross.

Annual Family Appreciation Day Event – A day of fun, food and fellowship where parishioners meet, share a meal and get to know one another better. Volunteers deliver meals to the sick and shut-in members.

Developmental Stages – Young and Middle Aged Adult Group (the future church) is an encouragement strategy to get parishioners who are not participating in ministries to get involved in parish life.

Renewed Sacramental Practice

Penance Services – Penance is offered during the Advent and Lenten Seasons at Holy Cross. Penance is also available for those who seek it on Saturdays or by appointment with the priest.

Preparation Classes – Sacramental classes for Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation are important to the life of the parish. RCIA for adults and children are also offered.

Marriage Preparation – For couples who plan to wed in the Catholic church is facilitated by the priest as needed.

Culture of Ministry: Individuals and Communities

I. Leadership Formation

II. Collaborative Ministry

III. Call and Form Diverse Leaders

Leadership Formation

Vocations Committee – Coordinated a poster contest for the children in the parish to design and submit for prizes

Men's Ministry – Hosts an bi-monthly prayer breakfast, formed a male choir, donate water for the three evenings of the annual Advent Revival, mentor the young adults of the parish

Women's Ministries – Collect toiletries for Safe Place monthly through the KPC Ladies Auxiliary, Holy Cross Women (Austin Diocesan Council of Catholic Women) host an annual prayer brunch, KPC Ladies of Grace collected purses for children of abused mothers to give on Mothers Day, provide rides for children to Mass at the parent's request, a new women's group has recently been formed – Nigerian Catholic Women.

Emerging Leaders – The Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary have a leadership group of young adults who are currently in leadership roles at Holy Cross and in other cities.

Heads of Ministries – Gather for a retreat to pray and fellowship together once a year

Collaborative Ministry

Ministry Heads Meetings – Quarterly meetings are scheduled annually, the church calendar is updated to reflect what meetings and activities are scheduled each month, and annual Ministry Heads Retreat

Ushers, Young Adult and Youth – Coordinate and alternate serving as ushers so that all will have an opportunity to serve

Youth Sunday – The youth lector and usher one Sunday each month, participate in special celebrations, holy days, and feast days as requested by the pastor or other ministries

Advent Revival – All ministries are requested to provide food and beverages for one of the three nights scheduled. There are usually three or more ministries providing meals each night

Annual Mother Land Mass – This mass is planned by the St. Augustine Society, parishioners, and other heads of ministries.

Call and Form Diverse Leaders

Diaconate Candidates – Holy Cross has one candidate who is currently in the Diaconate Formation Program

Eucharistic Ministers – The number of ministers has grown over the past several years.

St. Augustine Ministry- The African parishioners are the leaders of this ministry and all parishioners are welcome to participate in the ministry St August organizes a special Mass every last Sunday in August which encourages diverse cultures to participate both in the liturgy of the Mass and meals from diverse cultures.

Pastoral/Finance Council – A diverse group of parishioners were called to be leaders (African-American, Anglo, African)

Ministry Heads – Most are leaders in more than one parish ministry

Health and Wellness Ministry – This ministry is lead by parishioners in the medical field and those who retired from the medical field.

Witness and Outreach

- I. Commitment to Discipleship*
- II. Engage Culturally Diverse Communities*
- III. Engage Those at the Periphery of Society*

Commitment to Discipleship

ACTS Retreat – A Core Team has been formed a Holy Cross after several years of partnering with Our Lady of Guadalupe ACTS.

The Advent Revival - A renewal of faith, hope and love through an experience of scriptural readings, prayer, the Sacrament of Penance, and a recommitment of faith in Christ Jesus – Priests from various backgrounds are invited to conduct this retreat

First Friday and Saturday Devotions – Adoration, prayer, scripture, discipline, and song are promoted through these devotions

Engage Culturally Diverse Communities

Austin Interfaith – Holy Cross is a member of Austin Interfaith and participates in community wide accountability. Our Priest attends the clergy caucus

Office of Black Catholics – Fellowships developed between Holy Cross and many other parishes in Austin, Killeen, Old Washington and Waco, TX

Courageous Conversation – The Holy Cross Social Justice Ministry has been very successful in bringing parishioners from all over the diocese and other religious denominations.

Engage Those at the Periphery of Society

Angel Tree – During the Advent Season, several families in need are chosen, one with the Parish Community and one outside of the church community.

Food Drives – Holy Cross has a drive which involves distribution of shopping bags with items listed for the preparation of a Thanksgiving meal. Parishioners are required to return them by the Sunday before Thanksgiving. They are distributed to families in need and also shared with the Blackland Community Center in East Austin.

Meals on Wheels – The KPC adults and other members of Holy Cross are faithful to delivering meals and fellowshiping with those they serve.

Sick and Shut-In Members – Holy Cross Prayer Team visit the sick to pray with and for them, Office Staff mails bulletins and other information concerning the church to keep them informed, KPC Leaders/members also visit and pray with shut-in members

KPC Holiday Meals – At Thanksgiving a meal is prepared packaged and delivered to the shut-in members of Holy Cross by the KPC adult members.

Holy Cross Liturgical Dance Ministry – Has done fundraisers and provided blankets and sleeping bags for distribution to the homeless at churches near the University of Texas campus.

St Vincent de Paul – Provides financial assistance, food vouchers, clothing, etc. to those who live within the surrounding area of the church that come in and need assistance.

Youth Group and KPC Juniors – Annual Brown Bag Community Service Project- Youth prepare sack lunches and give them out to the homeless, KPC adult members collect gloves and socks to be given to those who come to Holy Cross needing those items.

Four C's (Christian Churches Collaborating for Change) – Helping those who are released from the prison system with housing, employment, education and other resources