



Sacred Heart
Catholic Church
Pinehurst, NC

Long-Range Plan

July 2015

Sacred Heart Catholic Church Long-Range Plan

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From October 2014 to June 2015, the Long-Range Planning Committee, comprised of members of the Pastoral Advisory Council and the Finance Council, along with other parishioners, has been working on completing a Long-Range Plan for Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Information was gathered from seven focus groups, a parish-wide survey and interviews with some of our shuts-ins.

In addition, demographic information was gathered from the Village of Pinehurst, the County of Moore and the Chamber of Commerce. This was used to augment the demographic and growth information we have in our parish data-base.

From the above information, a Mission Statement and Core Values for Sacred Heart Catholic Church were developed. Each of these Values are then followed by ways in which we carry these out along with recommendations for improvement. Under the direction of the Pastoral Advisory Council action plans will be generated to implement these recommendations.

In the Appendices, you will find the supporting information for our Plan. This includes the history of our Parish, the overview of the planning process, and our growth and financial projections. Following are the findings from our presentations, our brainstorming sessions, our parish-wide survey and our interviews.

The Long-Range Plan will be presented to the Parish over the next several months by posting the Plan on the Sacred Heart website and through presentations to the Parish.

The Pastor should be recognized for his willingness to support the planning effort and process of long-range planning, and his courage to take on such an endeavor. The success of such an effort and continual process is dependent upon the commitment of the Pastor and the Pastoral Advisory Council to promote, lead and inspire.

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
MISSION STATEMENT**

We are a parish dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We believe. We worship.
We celebrate. We express our love of God in Word, Sacrament and Service.

CORE VALUES

1. We are a community who believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist through Word and Sacrament.
2. We are a parish that formally worships God through daily Mass and Perpetual Adoration.
3. We follow the teaching of Christ by loving our neighbor as we love ourselves.
4. We share the joy of our faith with others.
5. We strive to become a more inviting, welcoming, and evangelizing parish.
6. We serve others by the inspiration of Christ.

How We Realize Our Core Values

We believe

As Catholics, we believe in Scripture and the Magisterium of the Church as expressed in the Nicene Creed.

We foster our belief through the following:

- Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy
- Scripture studies
- Religious education of our youth
- RCIA
- Symbolon

We worship

While our primary form of worship is the Mass, we have multiple ways of worshipping:

- Sunday Mass
- Weekday Mass
- Perpetual Adoration
- Stations of the Cross
- Monthly benediction

- Daily Rosary
- Charismatic Prayer Group
- Parish missions twice a year

We celebrate

As we celebrate our faith, we also celebrate life and our Christian community.

- Monthly coffee and social
- Respect Life
- Life Care Pregnancy Center

We serve

We serve in many ways: International, National, Local, Parish and Military

- International
 - Support the education of students in Uganda
 - Fund at least one water well per year in Uganda
 - Contribute to Church sponsored international collections
- National
 - Contribute to Church sponsored national collections
- Local
 - Contribute goods and money to support the Sandhill's Coalition for Human Care
 - Support San Juan Diego Mission by contributing food and clothing
 - Conduct a three-week summer school session for elementary students at San Juan Diego
 - Contribute to scholarships at Sandhill's Community College for students of Mission San Juan Diego
 - Support various charities such as Sandhill's Coalition and Family Promise
 - Support St. John Paul II School
- Parish
 - Outreach to elderly home bound and mentally ill (*Matthew 25*)
 - Needs of parents by providing a nursery during Mass
- Military
 - Through our Rosary Makers/ Military support

We strive to be inviting, welcoming and evangelizing

- Sunday greeters
- New parishioner expo
- Monthly coffee and donut socials
- Women of Sacred Heart
- Knights of Columbus

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are a number of recommendations put forward in the Long-Range Plan, some relatively achievable short-term, and others requiring greater resources and time to achieve. At the beginning of each of the six areas of recommendation are the Primary Recommendations in bold type, followed by Secondary Recommendations.

Communications

It is recognized that a parish the size of Sacred Heart must communicate effectively within the parish, to its parishioners, among the various ministries, and to the community. Sacred Heart utilizes a variety of communication vehicles, and recognizes the need to continuously improve communications.

- **Create a steering group to examine current communication strategies and practices, and recommend activities to better coordinate communications, (Website, Bulletin, Print Media, Social Media).**
- **Communicate the faith and works of Sacred Heart to the community.**
 - Create and staff a central reception area in the Education Building, Monday-Friday, 8am to 4pm
 - Expand work hours of the Communications Director
 - Appoint a Lay Ministry Coordinator to increase communication between the ministries
 - Encourage enthusiastic support from the pulpit for ministries
 - Respond to all questions and suggestions (staff & leadership)
 - Produce periodic and annual parish-wide financial status presentations
 - Conduct regularly scheduled staff meetings to facilitate communication among staff about parish issues and activities

Spiritual and Accessibility Needs of Aging Parishioners / Facilities

A majority of Sacred Heart parishioners are above the age of 65. This population has been the historical mainstay of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. As this population ages, and as more retired folk move to our community, we need to be increasingly aware of meeting both their physical and spiritual needs. There are a number of ways in which we can make Sacred Heart Church facilities more accessible to aging parishioners, and in turn better serve their spiritual and accessibility needs.

There is an increasing competition for space in the Education Building and church requiring solutions and consideration.

- **Encourage, support and develop opportunities to improve the accessibility of aging parishioners to Sacred Heart Church and its ministries, by building upon the foundation of the recently adopted Long-Term Facilities Plan.**
- **Continue to investigate opportunities to enhance the spiritual lives of parishioners and identify solutions.**
 - Improve accessibility for parishioners and guests with challenges (mobility, hearing, visual)
 - Entrances/accesses
 - Parking
 - Seating
 - Sound
 - Lighting
 - Support and implement the Sacred Heart Long-Term Facilities Plan
 - Analyze and address safety and security issues
 - Conduct space utilization study to examine space needs for offices, storage, activities, religious education, preschool and nursery and meetings
 - Conduct accessibility study
 - Implement procedure for scheduling facilities for meetings and activities, and resolving scheduling conflicts

Liturgy (Sacraments / Faith Formation)

The importance of the liturgy at Sacred Heart is widely acknowledged and recognized by parishioners. There are strongly held beliefs that liturgy at Sacred Heart needs to be more inclusive and accessible to a church population that is becoming more diverse, especially in terms of age. Parishioners want to be more involved in various liturgical opportunities at Sacred Heart.

- **Expand Faith Formation activities (number, variety, age directed).**
- **Expand and improve the Music Ministry.**
- **Increase opportunities for people to participate in the Liturgy.**
- **Shorten and focus homilies.**
 - Revitalize the ministry of 'greeter' and usher (hospitality)
 - Schedule additional and more convenient times for Reconciliation (e.g., evenings, after daily Mass)
 - Diversify Sacred Heart liturgical ministries to reflect the age and ethnic mix of the parish
 - Encourage youth involvement in Liturgies

Outreach / Evangelization

A critical question Sacred Heart parish must ask itself is “How do we ‘grow’ Sacred Heart Church?” How do we attract new parishioners? How do we keep parishioners? How do we attract those Catholics who have ‘fallen away’ from the Church? We must examine our current efforts to evangelize, and generate new efforts and strategies to attract worshippers to our faith. We need to be a *Real Presence* in the lives of parishioners. We need to strengthen and foster our relationships with the Catholic community, especially our mission church, San Juan Diego, and St. Pope John Paul II School, and St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church.

- **Spread the Word of God in word and service.**
- **Strengthen the relationship with others both inside and outside the Catholic community.**
- **Support evangelization efforts beyond our local community (e.g., Uganda wells and scholarships).**
- **Reach out to fallen-away Catholics and non-Catholic spouses.**
 - Strengthen our relationship with Catholic communities, especially St. Pope John Paul II School, St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Southern Pines, and our Mission Church, San Juan Diego, Robbins
 - Increase Faith Formation activities (number, variety, age directed)
 - Improve the Bereavement Ministry and support
 - Increase the commitment of Sacred Heart to St. Pope John Paul II School
 - Appoint a liaison to St. Pope John Paul II School

Welcoming

Sacred Heart Parish is a Catholic community of nearly 1200 households. There are a number and variety of ministries that serve, involve and welcome parishioners. There is, however, a significant number of parishioners whose experiences cause them to view Sacred Heart as unwelcoming. Sacred Heart must address this issue. The growth and vitality of Sacred Heart is absolutely dependent upon constantly trying to welcome all who come to Sacred Heart.

- **Become a more welcoming faith community and parish.**
- **Expand efforts to welcome new parishioners and help them fulfill their spiritual needs.**
 - Develop strategies to be a more welcoming parish
 - Create and staff Central Reception Area, Monday thru Friday, 8am to 4pm in Religious Education Building
 - Revitalize the ministry of ‘greeters’ and greeter usher (hospitality)

- Acknowledge newcomers at all Masses (1x month)
- Continue the development of the 'welcome packet' that will 'showcase' the ministries
- Personal 'welcome letter' to each new parishioner
- Conduct a volunteer appreciation event
- Encourage all ministries to be more welcoming
- Hospitality stations where newcomers can pick up information

Youth and Families

There is an increasing number of young families at Sacred Heart, especially those families who are military-connected at Ft. Bragg. These families in the past year have become more involved and vocal in their advocacy for increased opportunities within the church for children, youth and families. Already in the past year, Sacred Heart has responded by approving and developing both a Nursery Ministry and a Youth Council. Changing demographics and the unique needs of an increasingly younger population require that we support our younger parishioners. The growth and vitality of Sacred Heart demands this.

- **Develop a community that fosters faith-formation for children, youth and families.**
- **Hire a Youth and Families Minister.**
 - Develop and implement youth faith formation activities that are welcoming and inclusive
 - Promote and encourage growth of Youth Council
 - Review the developmental appropriateness of CCD content (k-6)
 - Aggressively solicit young adults and young married families in ministries
 - Increase youth involvement in Liturgies (e.g., Hold Youth Mass with youth involvement, lectors, ushers, etc.)
 - Diversify the representation of Sacred Heart liturgical ministries to more accurately reflect the age and ethnic mix of the parish

NEXT STEPS

The initial long-range planning process is complete. The Long-Range Plan for Sacred Heart has been completed and has been approved by the Pastoral Advisory Council. However, for the Plan to be successful, it must be viewed as part of a process of continuous implementation, monitoring and review. The Plan cannot be left on a shelf. The cyclical process of review requires the commitment of the Pastor, the Pastoral Advisory Council and the parish.

Our next steps will be critical.

First, the survey results will be published and distributed to parishioners by September. This will be accomplished by means of a printed pamphlet.

Second, the Plan will be presented to parishioners. It will be made available on the Sacred Heart Website and will be presented in to parishioners in September. These presentations will highlight the process, the findings and the resulting plan. Action steps to implement the recommendations will be highlighted.

Third, each area of the recommendations will be given consideration and an approach established for implementation. Each category will be assigned to a member or team members to prioritize the recommendations and work with staff to generate an action plan. These may be short term or long term action plans depending on the nature of the recommendation. Action plan updates will be part of the monthly PAC meeting agenda.

On an annual basis, this plan will be reviewed by the PAC and revised as needed. It will form the basis for the following year's Annual Plan.

OVERVIEW OF LONG-RANGE PLANNING PROCESS

Background: The *Sacred Heart Catholic Church Long-Range Plan* has been developed in response to the Annual Parish Plan 2014 -2015. The Annual Parish Plan, under Priorities VI and VII, called for “The Parish (to) develop a long-term plan with broad-based Parish and community-wide input.” Two objectives required the formation of “a committee to plan and monitor a long-term parish plan and process no later than October 2014”, and “collect, organize, and analyze all relevant available demographic data to inform the development of a long-term parish plan and process no later than March 2015.”

Long-Range Planning Steering Committee & Process: In October 2014, a committee of parishioners, including the Pastor and Pastoral Advisory Council members began meeting to outline a long-term planning process and develop topics for a long-term plan for the Parish. It was decided to gather data and input from as many sources and people as possible. The committee also described what a successful long-term plan would look like when completed.

Informational Presentations – A number of informational presentations were scheduled for the committee, PAC and staff members. These presentations included: the Moore County Chamber of Commerce, Sacred Heart Catholic Church 10 Year Demographic Trends, the Village of Pinehurst Strategic Plan and Planning Process, and St. Pope John Paul II School.

Brainstorming Sessions with Staff and Parishioners – A total of seven Brainstorming Sessions were conducted between November 2014 and March 2015, with various groups of Sacred Heart parishioners and staff: two groups of younger adult parishioners; two groups of the Knights of Columbus; and three groups of parishioners including representatives from various Parish ministries. A total of 125 people participated in a consensus building, “open – narrow - close process” of identifying: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Challenges of Sacred Heart Parish. The outcomes of the process have been instrumental in aiding the Long-Range Planning Committee in drafting the Plan.

Parish-Wide Survey – A sub-committee was charged with developing a parish-wide survey of all Sacred Heart parishioners. *Survey Monkey*, an online survey development company, was chosen as the shell program for data collection and analysis of the 56-question survey. At the end of March 2015, the survey was email “blasted” to all parish email addresses on file, and “hard-copy” surveys were mailed to all 1151 parish households. Additionally, over the course of four weekends in March and April, additional paper copies of the survey were handed to parishioners following each Mass. A total of 477 completed surveys were returned (222 online; 255 paper copies).

Interviews – Structured interviews were developed and administered to two targeted groups: parishioners who, due to age, infirmity or disability cannot participate in brainstorming sessions, or complete surveys; and several Sacred Heart Church leaders.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS and RESOURCE DOCUMENTS

The Long-Range Planning Steering Committee reviewed many source documents to assist in the long-range planning process. These included a number of long-range and strategic plans from other churches and business and community organizations, newspaper and journal articles addressing growth trends, and community planning documents. A full listing of these source documents are contained in the Bibliography and Appendices.

BRAINSTORMING SESSIONS

Seven Brainstorming Sessions, facilitated by committee members, were held between November of 2014 and February of 2015. Various parish groups convened to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges perceived in our parish. Through an “open – narrow – close” process priorities were established and utilized in developing the Long-Range Plan.

STRENGTHS

Parishioners gave positive affirmation to our pastor, Reverend Edward Burch and Parochial Vicar, Reverend Joseph Mulroney; while also recognizing staff members who are dedicated in their contribution to the spiritual well-being of the parish. The church and classroom building are definite assets and the parishioners appreciate not having debt. Tireless and dedicated volunteers contribute to the spiritual, social and charitable goals of the congregation. Established ministries related to the celebration of the Mass are highly respected for their commitment and talent. The increase in young professionals, military personnel, and their families is seen as positive growth in talent and participation. Programs for education and spiritual growth are available for children, youth and adults. Generosity, both financially and in time and talent, is highly recognized and valued.

WEAKNESSES

Recognition was given to the lack of functional space in servicing the growing needs of the parish to include: offices for paid staff, reception area, storage, and nursery. Scheduling and competition for meeting space presents problems. Other than religious education, there are limited programs for youth or young families, including meaningful social activities. Religious education should be taught based on the developmental needs of the children. There is a general perception that Sacred Heart is not a welcoming parish, exhibits negativity and has an inflexible vision related to both aging and younger populations. Communication, both through technology and by the priests from the pulpit, is lacking and needed. Accessibility for the disabled, and repair of pews were identified as maintenance issues. Dissatisfaction was expressed about late arrivals to and early departures from Mass.

OPPORTUNITIES

High priority was given to meeting the needs of our youth and creating a “dynamic” family-friendly parish. Hire a paid professional youth and family’s minister to lead activities and provide opportunities for youth participation. Include social and family events. Attract both male and female altar servers and connect youth activities with worship by having youth involved as choir members, ushers, and lectors. Create a youth council. Have a children’s choir. Have more social events such as pancake breakfasts. Mass is an obligation and also an opportunity to enlighten and inspire. Evangelize and recapture “fallen-away” Catholics by making Sacred Heart Church known to the community through expanding the welcoming ministry. Publicize opportunities for involvement within the parish and outside the parish. Expand and publicize educational programs. Support our mission church, San Juan Diego, and continue to donate to non-profit organizations that provide help to those in need.

CHALLENGES

The challenge of the leadership and staff is to lead the parish to become a more welcoming, engaging and inspirational community. Parishioners desire priests to be visible and active participants in and encouragers of parish-wide activities. The parish seeks to have responsive leadership that shepherds initiatives to completion and is visibly engaged. Mass is important and all should participate fully until the end of the liturgy. Support is needed for aging parishioners as well as young families and youth. This can only be accomplished through a changing of mindsets based on our changing demographics and by active participation through volunteerism. Young children should be welcomed and the parish should support and promote a quality Nursery Ministry. The parish is challenged to keep parents, youth, and entire families involved beyond Confirmation. Increased participation in activities and events offered by parish organizations should be encouraged from the pulpit and by advertising in local media. Aging parishioners and the homebound have specific needs that require accommodation. Provide easy access to church for disabled individuals through better parking and shorter walking distance. Address seating for handicapped within the church. Defend the Catholic faith by increased evangelization. Grow our parishioner base through effective communication and attract those who have “fallen-away”. Organizations and ministries should use existing technology, electronic communication and social media more effectively to inform parishioners of activities and opportunities.

PARISH-WIDE SURVEY RESPONSES AND COMMENTS

The anonymously completed Parish-Wide Survey consisted of eight sections. The first section was directions; six sections totaling 56 questions asked for scaled responses to questions, as well as comments; and the final section requested the completion of the respondent's demographic information.

Section 1. *Sacred Heart Church Self-Study Survey Directions*

The Parish-Wide Survey was to be completed by registered parishioners or regular attendees of Sacred Heart. There were several minor errors in the Survey design pointed out within several comments.

Section 2. (Questions 1 – 9) *Celebrating – Sacraments – Prayer – Spiritual Growth - Devotions*

Responses to Questions:

- Parishioners greatly value Masses that are prayerful, reverent and spiritually moving. This goal is not always met.
- Sacred Heart has created an excellent environment for worship.
- Availability of Reconciliation is important and can be improved.
- Availability of Anointing of the Sick is very important and can be improved.
- Faith Formation programs are in effect and their scope should be expanded.
- Perpetual Adoration is highly respected at Sacred Heart.
- Encouragement of Vocations is important and could be promoted more.

Comments:

- Almost all responded to questions on Mass and Sacraments. There is a deep appreciation, respect, and affection for our priests as holy men. Comments on lengthy homilies, music, sound, and length of Masses show parishioners' desires for meaningful celebration.
- Perpetual Adoration is an asset to the parish in spite of scheduling "hiccups".

Section 3. (Questions 10 – 15) *Teaching – Faith Formation – Youth Ministry*

Responses to Questions:

- Religious Education for Children and Adults is important and can be improved.
- Access to Catholic primary education and youth programs are important to the populations being served. Improvements could be made.

Comments:

- The greatest concerns regarding Faith Formation was concern for Youth programs, and Youth ministry with this population being under-served. There

were requests for more family type activities and adult Faith Formation. Visibility of and support by priests was crucial. Having St. Pope John Paul II School in the area was seen as a plus, and there were a number of commenters who said Sacred Heart needs to be more supportive of the school.

- Many people want it easier to get to know people and to be invited to participate in ministries and activities

Section 4. (Questions 16 – 24) Caring – Outreach – Social Justice - Fellowship

Responses to Questions:

- Sensitivity to people with special needs is very important to our parish and their needs could be better addressed.
- Encouragement of racial harmony is important, but many parishioners don't know what, if anything, we are doing.
- Social justice outreach programs are viewed as less important to our parish. The majority of respondents do not know what, if anything, we are doing.
- Outreach to the local needy is very important to parishioners, and they view Sacred Heart as doing a good job in this area.
- Respect for Life is very important to our parish and Sacred Heart is doing a good job in this area.
- Bereavement support is very important to parishioners, but many do not know what is available.
- Social activities are somewhat important but not as important as many other Church activities.

Comments:

- Comments on Outreach were all over the map. The ministries to hospital, nursing homes and shut-ins were praised. Work needs to be done in this area, because there is a lack of awareness of how much we do, what we do and if it is enough.
- Many people want it easier to get to know people and to be invited to participate in ministries and activities.

Section 5. (Questions 25 – 32) *Evangelizing – Welcoming – Ecumenism - Interfaith*

Responses to Questions:

- RCIA is an important function at Sacred Heart. Many parishioners do not know how well we serve this community.
- It is extremely important that Sacred Heart shows a spirit of warmth and hospitality. This area needs to be improved.
- Our parish believes that it is important to reach out to non-practicing Catholics. Most parishioners do not know if, or how, we do this.

- A clear majority of parishioners do not know if Sacred Heart is sensitive to religious diversity in families.
- Cooperation with other Christian Churches viewed as important but many parishioners do not know if Sacred Heart has any involvement with other churches.
- Understanding of other religions is not viewed as important to parishioners.

Comments:

- In welcoming, the ushers received high marks. Greeters were either good or not there. Again, we are not seen as a welcoming community, and it is hard to get to know people and get involved. Ecumenism is seen as non-existent. Support for 'mixed religion' families is seen as a need. RCIA had mixed reviews.

Section 6. (Questions 33 – 40) *Participating – Administration - Communication*

Responses to Questions:

- Significant majority of parishioners want to be involved.
- Parishioners want answers and follow-up when they inquire of staff.
- Sacred Heart leadership at all levels could do a better job in responding to concerns of parishioners
- Parish financials are important and the parish does a good job in publishing them.
- Keeping the parish informed is critical and the parish does a fairly good job.
- Most respondents have visited either the Sacred Heart website and / or FaceBook page.

Comments:

- In the area of communication more work needs to be done. More detailed and more transparent financial information was requested. Efforts are needed to become more inviting to people to participate and have more familiarity with the Ministries.
- Pulpit announcements by priests would give more emphasis and importance to activities.
- The Director of Liturgy, in particular, and staff, in general were appreciated. The website was given mixed reviews.

Section 7. (Questions 41 – 44) *Parish Facilities*

Responses to Questions:

- Parish facilities are very important to parishioners and Sacred Heart does an excellent job in this area.
- Easy access for disabled is very important. Improvements need to be made.
- Facilities for meetings/activities are important and they are viewed as adequate.

Comments:

- A major issue of the survey revolves around accessibility issues, including more handicapped parking, a closer and easier drop-off area to the Church, a handicapped door, and designated seating inside the church.
- “Sacred Heart is a beautiful church!” This was a primary response. Grounds and landscaping received positive comments regarding appearance. There were several comments expressing concern about whether the church requires repainting. Some concerns were expressed about costs associated with maintenance. Another related concern is safety and lighting in the parking lot especially near the Education building when classes are being dismissed and at night.

Section 8. (Questions 45 – 55) *Demographics*

In summary, the main issues revealed by the Parish-Wide Survey are:

1. Accessibility issues.
2. Youth programming, expanded Faith Formation for adults, and more family activities.
3. Maintaining and improving all aspects for life-changing Liturgy.
4. The challenge of building a more welcoming community.

INTERVIEW SURVEYS OF ELDERLY PARISHIONERS IN LONG-TERM CARE

Intent: During the initial Brainstorming Session groups, the Pastoral Council noted that members of the parish voiced concerns about the elderly population in Sacred Heart Parish, especially those living in residential facilities and the homebound elderly. The Council decided to use the current list of those receiving the Eucharist and to survey each resident. The interviews were conducted by members of the newly formed elderly advocacy group, *Matthew 25*.

Results: Surveyors were concerned with the 53 parishioners currently residing in seven nursing facilities. Attempts were made to interview all 53 parishioners. As 70% of the residents have cognitive issues due to dementia, delusions, depression and schizophrenic disorders, the interviewers completed 22 interviews. Not every resident could answer all survey questions. Even though all data with each resident could not be obtained, we recorded the data the resident could give us. The percent of residents participating was 40%.

Survey Data:

Members of Sacred Heart = 14; Not a Member = 7; Unsure = 4

Length of time in the facility: Over two years = 9; Less than two years = 9

Members having contact with a priest = 13

Request: Priest visitor = 5; Prayer shawl = 1

Age of residents surveyed: 50-60 = 1; 60-70 = 2; 70-80 = 5; 80-100 = 11; Unknown = 3

Conclusion: Sacred Heart is making a considerable effort to ensure that each nursing facility has an assigned Eucharistic minister. Also, many of the residents have a monthly contact with a Priest, although this frequency is threatened with upcoming changes in priestly assignments. There is a schedule to visit one time a month and give the Sacrament of the Sick. Residents are requesting visits, and an effort is being made to increase the number of volunteers to meet the need for these visits.

INTERVIEWS OF CHURCH LEADERS

Several structured interviews were conducted with church leaders. What came across is the value placed upon providing for the spiritual needs of the base of Sacred Heart Parish. There is recognition and support for meeting the needs of the changing demographics of the church, and the desire to meet the needs of the growing population of youth and young families.

SACRED HEART CHURCH DATA

Diocesan Report submitted in June of each year

Registered Households June 2015 – 1,182

Parish Sacramental Information

	(2012-13)	(2013-14)	(2014-15)
Baptisms	26	37	27
Penance/First Communion	22	32	15
Confirmation	12	43	5 (adults)
Matrimony	9	10	10
Anointing of the Sick	279	357	471
Funerals	39	46	43
Rite of Christian Initiation	2	5	5

Lay Ministry

In supporting our priests and deacons, lay people serve in many capacities:

SERVICE PROVIDED	(2012-13)	(2013-14)	(2014-15)
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	86	124	71
Adult Altar Servers assist at Mass.	6	6	8
Youth Altar Servers assist mostly on weekends.	11	11	11
Musicians/Organists lead the choir.	2	2	2
Choir members - 10:45 Mass and special services.	23	29	30
Cantors lead the congregation in singing at Mass.	7	7	8
Lectors read the Holy Scripture at Mass.	27	24	26
Greeters welcome people to our services.	12	12	12
Ushers	27	34	34
Perpetual Adoration Division Coordinators	4	4	5
Perpetual Adoration Adorers	311	290	318
Ladies in our Sanctuary Society	22	26	24

GROWTH PROJECTIONS

The population of Sacred Heart Catholic Church has remained remarkably unchanged over a 10-year period of time. The number of registered households in 2004 was 1,174 compared to 1,137 registered households in 2014. Recently, there has been a slight, but noticeable “bump” in households registered to 1,182 as of June 2015. This overall trend of lack of growth is contrasted with the 1.5 % population growth within Moore County over the comparable period of time. The population in Moore County increased 18 percent between 2000 and 2010. Moore County has experienced economic vitality, the “great recession”, and gradual economic recovery. Between 2004 through 2007, early “Baby-Boomers” took advantage of a very favorable and attractive housing market, and moved to Pinehurst and surrounding communities. In 2008, the economy began to slow considerably as the influx of retirees also slowed resulting in a very stale local housing market with a correspondingly high inventory of homes for sale.

In 2012 and 2013 two major factors began to influence our community. One, the economic downturn began to ease. Second, the effects of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) for Ft. Bragg began to be felt locally. The impact of military growth was projected by BRAC to bring an “additional \$161 million personal income” to Moore County, and a population increase of “4,128 that are a result of military expansion”.*

In fact, the projected effects of BRAC are indeed being felt at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, both anecdotally and in actual increased numbers of younger families and military families registering in the parish, and attending Masses and religious education. In both Brainstorming Sessions, and in parish-wide survey responses, younger adults with children have spoken out articulately about their needs and expectations for parish services, especially for the involvement of their children in church.

The contrasting demographic of our Sacred Heart Parish community, which was initially founded to serve the needs of a fairly ‘well-to-do’ population of retirees, is the number and percentage of aging parishioners. Thirty-three percent of registered Sacred Heart parishioners are above the age of 70; fourteen percent of parishioners are between the ages 61 to 70. The number of funerals of parishioners conducted at Sacred Heart is slightly greater than the number of baptisms conducted at Sacred Heart.

* “Comprehensive Regional Growth Plan Final Report”, Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base BRAC Regional Task Force: Community Planning for BRAC Implementation, 2008

In 2014 thirty-one percent of Moore County residents are ages 60 and over. Fifteen percent of Sacred Heart members are ages 20 and under. Moore County has a twenty-two percent population of residents ages 19 and under. Roughly forty-six percent of Moore County residents are between the ages of 20-59 compared to thirty-five percent of Sacred Heart members of the same age range.

Ultimately, a major challenge for Sacred Heart Catholic Church is to positively “grow” the parish in numbers and percentages that mirror the growth of the larger county.

SIGNATURES

The Sacred Heart Long-Range Plan should be viewed as a document that reflects the current status of Sacred Heart Parish and should be reviewed, evaluated and updated continuously as a tool for effecting change.

The committee members wish to thank Father Edward Burch and the parishioners of Sacred Heart for their prayerful and thoughtful input and guidance throughout this process. The committee also expresses their appreciation to family members and spouses, especially, for their patience and support as we worked to develop this Plan.

Approved by the Sacred Heart Pastoral Advisory Council July 14, 2015

SIGNATURES: PASTOR and COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Reverend Edward J. Burch, Pastor

Edward Biebrich, Finance Council, Chair

Al Beranek

Cecelia Doherty

William R. May, Pastoral Advisory Council, Chair

Carolyn Gale, Pastoral Advisory Council, Secretary

Nicole Hawes

Joan Matula

Bruce Patkunas
Pastoral Advisory Council

Leslie Pisani-Impastato
Pastoral Advisory Council

Jack Rumprik
Pastoral Advisory Council

Debbie Vanover
Pastoral Advisory Council

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

SACRED HEART PARISH HISTORY

(Excerpts from Sacred Heart 2000 Directory and Parish Website)

In planning for the future it is important to look at the historic service to the Catholic community that Sacred Heart Parish has provided to the Sandhills for the past one hundred years.

At the turn of the century, Catholics were a very small minority of the population, living in widely scattered communities throughout the state. To meet the needs of these Catholics, the "Priest on Horseback" traveled from town to town, and in many cases, from farm house to farm house, to bring the Sacraments to the people.

Father William J Dillon, our first pastor, was one of these brave and dedicated priests. He came to the Sandhills in 1911, serving 12 parishes, an area of about 1550 square miles. Sacred Heart in Pinehurst began as a mission of St. Anthony of Padua in Southern Pines serving the seasonal needs of the Irish Catholic employees of the Carolina Hotel. These maids, servants and chauffeurs would work and worship here in the fall and spring and move to the New England hotels for the summer months. With the help of many non-Catholic residents, visitors and parishioners, Father Dillon raised funds to build our Old English Gothic style church. He laid the cornerstone in 1919. The beautiful stained glass windows, noted for the detail and brilliant colors, were donated in the early twenties and now adorn the new church. In 1927 the rectory was built as a "Clergy Rest House" to accommodate priests from all over the country who came to Pinehurst for a vacation. Among the distinguished priests to visit were Archbishop Fulton Sheen and several Roman Curia dignitaries. In 1948 the dwelling that became the Maryhurst Retreat House and later the Parish Center was donated to the Diocese. The old church served parish needs for over seventy years. Father Dillon was originally buried beside the church, the only individual ever buried in the Village of Pinehurst. His body has since been moved to Our Lady of Guadeloupe Cemetery in Newton Grove, NC.

Many changes took place in the 1970's. Retirees were joined by families and younger people attracted by employment opportunities. Monsignor John A. Brown (who followed Father Dillon as Pastor (1942-1959), and also served (1970-1975) witnessed the beginning of this growth. Monsignor James R. Jones, Monsignor William G. Wellein, and Rev. Thomas E. Currin also served as Pastors during the 1959-1975 period. Rev. Joseph Lynn (1976-1977) and Rev. Raymond Donahue (1977-1981) saw the early growth of Seven Lakes.

The parish population continued to rise under the beloved Monsignor Frederick A. Koch, pastor from 1981-1990, requiring five Masses a weekend plus a Mass in Seven Lakes. It

was obvious a new and larger church had to be built. Monsignor Koch began the process by purchasing the land for our new church.

Rev. Robert T. Lawson was pastor from 1990-1999. He came to the parish with a mandate from Bishop F. Joseph Gossman, Bishop of Raleigh, to build a church to meet the needs of the year 2020. Father Lawson devoted himself to the task of building a church that would be a source of pride for every parishioner and a Pinehurst landmark. Parishioners contributed their time, labor, and funds to make this church a reality. On April 27, 1994, Bishop Gossman dedicated the new 1,000 seat church. Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament began in December 1994 and has continued 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Before his retirement Father Lawson oversaw the building of the Education Building and Founders Hall. As Pastor Emeritus, he continued to say Mass at Sacred Heart until his health declined. His death was in 2008.

Rev. William L Pitts arrived in July 1999 and served until June 2011. During Father Pitts's tenure, a permanent church for our mission parish, San Juan Diego was built in Robbins. The congregation had previously worshipped in store-fronts, rented churches, and at Robbins Elementary School. He also managed the sale of the old church and rectory and the purchase of two residences to use as rectories by the Pastor and Parochial Vicar. When Father Pitts was reassigned, he left the Parish debt-free and with a financial cushion for future expansion. Sacred Heart had continued to grow with an increase of 125% of school age children.

Rev. Edward J Burch was appointed pastor by Bishop Michael Burbidge in July 2011. Immediate needs of the parish included upgrades in technology, including Online Giving, the parish website, and a major overhaul of the church's sound system. In 2012, the capital campaign to build the new Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral was joined with needs of our normally aging facility and increased needs for space for expanding ministries in the "Journey in Faith" program. Sacred Heart raised pledges of over \$1.7 million dollars with over \$726,000 designated to the Diocese of Raleigh. The program continues until the end of 2016. Major projects completed to date include a new roof on the church and Education Building, new windows in Education Building, and replacement of the HVAC system in the church.

The recession of 2008 slowed the influx of retirees to Moore County, but brought about an increase in younger families, many being in the military leaving the census of the parish stable at around 1,100 households. Currently, the number of registered individuals is 47% over age 60, 35% ages 21 to 60, and 15% under age 20.

With continued growth expected in Moore County, Sacred Heart welcomes newcomers to participate in making Sacred Heart a vibrant parish and their spiritual home far into the future. As we look forward, it is well to contemplate the past and to the thousands of Catholics who have found solace and salvation over the past hundred years in Pinehurst.

APPENDIX B: RESOURCES

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