

# Pastoral Plan 2013 - 2016



Cathedral of Saint Eugene

2323 Montgomery Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

707-542-6984

[www.steugenes.com](http://www.steugenes.com)

# The Cathedral of Saint Eugene Pastoral Plan 2013-2016

## **Introduction**

As Catholics we are blessed to be part of a rich and bountiful heritage of worship based on the unity and strength provided by the Holy Eucharist and God's love. In a very special way, we, the Cathedral Parish of the Diocese of Santa Rosa recognize that there are certain responsibilities and duties that are uniquely our own. These duties extend through our liturgical practices, our evangelization efforts as well as the unique mandate to establish the proper level of reverence and model as the symbol of the Bishop's authority and responsibility.

We are diverse as a people in almost every way, yet we, as a parish family of priests, religious, and laity, must share common goals and missions, which are outlined in this document. Each one of us is called to fulfill these goals according to our unique and different personalities and backgrounds.

## **SPIRITUAL LIFE AND WORSHIP**

Spiritual life is a growing union with the Lord based upon the Sacramental life and religious values of the Roman Catholic faith. We are all encouraged to hold this union as the highest goal in all aspects of life. Our spiritual life is enhanced by instilling a sense of belonging through worship and active participation in the parish, the diocese and our Catholic faith around the world.

## **GOAL I**

As the Mother Church of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, we seek to be a large, vibrant and faith-filled community, which serves as a model for Catholic liturgical life and spiritual growth.

### **Strategy 1**

The Parish Pastoral Council will periodically review all the liturgical celebrations in our parish to ensure that the following elements are preserved and evident: warm hospitality, respect for tradition, and the principle of noble simplicity built on a solid foundation of faith based on fundamental truths.

Some specific aspects of this strategy include:

- \* Review the music program on a periodic basis and assist in providing support and the continued development of Sacred Music.
- \* Semi-annual recruiting and training of all ushers/greeters with an emphasis on the virtue of hospitality.
- \* Semi-annual training of all ministers of the altar with an emphasis on guidance provided by the General Instruction of the Roman Missal.
- \* Evaluate the Mass and Confession schedule in June of 2013.

- \* Consider the placement of a Spanish Mass.
- \* Emphasize the importance of our bishop in his Cathedral.

### Strategy 2

The Parish Pastoral Council will be involved in the planning and evaluation of opportunities for spiritual growth on an annual basis. These opportunities shall be clearly communicated to both the parish and diocese.

## **GOAL II**

As a local parish church, we seek to be an intimate family of faith that constantly strives to find our unity and strength in the Holy Eucharist.

### Strategy 1

The Parish Pastoral Council will investigate ways to invite new parishioners to actively participate in the spiritual life and worship of our parish. Particular emphasis will be on building a strong sense of community and belonging.

### Strategy 2

The Parish Pastoral Council will discuss appropriate ways to acknowledge and include young parents, children and teens in the spiritual life and worship of our parish.

Some specific elements of this strategy include:

- \* Children's Liturgy of the Word
- \* Children's Choir
- \* Opportunities for spiritual growth (rosary, stations of the cross, etc.)
- \* Mom's Group

### Strategy 3

To increase the attendance at Sunday Mass and other liturgical events, the Parish Pastoral Council will recommend, implement and monitor methods of increasing participation in both daily and Sunday celebrations of the Eucharist as well as Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the rosary and other devotions. Pastoral Council representatives will actively seek recommendations from within and without the parish and present them to the rector for possible implementation.

## **EVANGELIZATION AND FAITH FORMATION**

Evangelization is the mission that was given to each of us at baptism to proclaim the Gospel of Christ and invite others to share our Catholic faith. To evangelize our faith, we first must have a strong grounding and understanding of our faith through continuing education, self-awareness and prayer.

## **GOAL 1**

We seek to be a Cathedral Parish that offers a comprehensive Catholic educational program from cradle to grave for the benefit of our own parishioners as well as those in the Diocese of Santa Rosa.

### Strategy 1

The parish will provide for regular adult education opportunities that deepen our understanding of the Catholic Faith. The Parish Pastoral Council will evaluate these opportunities and make suggestions for future programs.

### Strategy 2

The Parish Pastoral Council will regularly evaluate the effectiveness of our RCIA/inquiry programs and offer support.

### Strategy 3

The parish will place a high priority on the education of children and young people.

Some specific aspects of this strategy include:

- \* Collaboration with St. Eugene Catholic School.
- \* Sacramental preparation for children based on specific standards
- \* Ongoing religious formation of children and young people.
- \* Ongoing support and encouragement of the Youth Group.

## **GOAL II**

We seek to be a Cathedral Parish that is committed to the new Evangelization inaugurated by Blessed Pope John Paul the Great and continued by Pope Benedict XVI. We strive to joyfully and vigorously proclaim our Catholic Faith by the way in which we live our daily lives. Keeping in mind the importance of self knowledge and self evangelization is necessary before we can evangelize others.

### Strategy 3

In close collaboration with the parish ministry groups, the Parish Pastoral Council will regularly review the ways in which we reach out to those who are not Catholic as well as those who no longer actively practice the Catholic faith.

Some specific aspects of this strategy are:

- \* Developing a systematic plan to reach out to the neighborhoods within the Cathedral boundaries.
- \* Developing a specific plan for parishioners to identify and invite people back to the practice of the faith.

- \* Expanding the times available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and clearly advertising those times.
- \* Making use of existing organizations such as Knights of Columbus to assist with these efforts.

### Strategy 3

The Parish Pastoral Council will examine ways to raise the profile of the Cathedral for the purpose of evangelization.

Some specific aspects of this strategy are:

- \* Renewing the website and exploring other means of electronic networking.
- \* Coordinate with the Diocese communication group to take advantage of media awareness programs, social media, and external services for education and awareness
- \* Examining ways to maintain and enhance the beauty of the interior of the Cathedral.
- \* Raising the profile of the Cathedral through advertising, tourist publications, and the cultivation of media relationships.

## **BUILDINGS, GROUNDS AND ADMINISTRATION**

As a Cathedral Parish, our worship space must reflect a physical environment that allows the members of our Catholic community to experience the presence of God. When someone enters the Cathedral, they are entering a space that supports their ability to lift their hearts and souls to our loving God. The building itself plays an important role in enhancing that experience.

### **GOAL 1**

To update and enhance the Cathedral interior space to make it a pleasing and reverent place of worship.

### Strategy 1

The Bishop and Parish Building Committee will assist the Rector in overseeing the development of the design.

Some specific aspects of this strategy are:

Evaluation of the Cathedral sanctuary with a particular focus on repositioning the Tabernacle and Cathedra.

Particular sensitivity needs to be given to sound, light, and the community's focus on the free standing altar.

Evaluation of overall lighting wall color, floor coverings, etc.

- \* Development of a maintenance priority list for the Cathedral Church that would include the re-leading and protection of the stained glass windows.

\* Evaluation of the infrastructure needs of the Cathedral Rectory including windows, roof, HVAC, electrical, furnishes and finishes.

## Strategy 2

The Parish Finance Council and the Parish Pastoral Council will ensure that the ongoing work of the Building Committee, fundraising for the remodel, as well as the overall financial health of the parish, is clearly communicated to members of the parish on a regular basis.

## **GOAL II**

We will seek to provide for the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the Cathedral Campus in such a way that it adequately supports the mission and ministry of the parish.

## Strategy 1

In collaboration with the Parish Finance Council, the Rector will develop an increased offertory campaign plan to be implemented in 2013. This includes the ongoing campaign that began in October 2011.

Some specific aspects of this strategy are:

- \* Focus on paying back of loans currently viewed as valid debts to the Cathedral
- \* Ensure specific funds are earmarked for renovation and facility improvement

## **SOCIAL OUTREACH And CONCERN**

Social outreach and concern represents a meeting of the social and material needs of our parish, community, and world. We must seek ways of blending those needs with strong faith based efforts, which reflect our Catholic values and retain fiscal accountability and viability.

## **GOAL I**

We seek to be a community that joyfully continues its strong commitment to those who are poor, unemployed, sick or marginalized in any way.

## Strategy 1

The Parish Pastoral Council will ensure that the various programs of the Cathedral's social outreach program are periodically communicated to the members of the parish.

Some specific aspects of this strategy are:

- \* Engage members of the parish via small groups and action teams to help keep the parish informed on various programs

\* Utilize communication media within the parish and the Diocese to aid in the overall communication effectiveness

## Strategy 2

The Parish Pastoral Council will evaluate the effectiveness of all the social outreach programs of the Cathedral on an annual basis and make recommendations for any needed change

Some specific aspects of this strategy are:

- \* The parish council will establish measurement metrics to support effectiveness evaluation of programs on a consistent basis.
- \* The pastor/rector will be advised on the results of all evaluation for determining action.

## **GOAL II**

We strive to be parishioners who are good stewards of the financial resources dedicated to social outreach.

## Strategy 1

The Parish Finance Council will receive and review quarterly reports from the St. Vincent de Paul Program and make funding level recommendations based on that review.

Some specific aspects of this strategy are:

- \* Parish will receive periodic updates on financial costs and program benefits on the approved social outreach programs.