

Sacred Heart Parish, Oberlin OH
Spiritual Life Commission Chronology, 2005-18

Rev. 4-17-18

2003-04 SH participated in diocesan Vibrant Parish Life Program, including completing a survey, and analyzing the results (May-Sept. 2003). One recommendation was organizing a “Prayer Centered Fellowship”.

July 2004 The Alpha program was selected as a vehicle to “power up” such fellowship.

Aug. 2004 Deacon Dave Pecot (St. Basil parish, Brecksville) offered to help with the Alpha Program, Sue & Joe Palmieri worked with him – and planning began for Alpha in Jan. 2005.

Jan.–Mar. 2005 Alpha Program held, 10 weeks, met Monday nights, each session included a meal and fellowship, a teaching video and group sharing. Participants responded warmly to the content of the talks, and the discussions following them.

May 2005 An Alpha follow-up meeting was held to discuss results of a questionnaire on follow-up activities favored by participants. 40 of 42 respondents wanted additional spiritual growth programs. Monthly Alpha-like evenings were held during the summer of 2005 (meal, videos e.g. The Mass, The Papacy and Recent Popes with time for fellowship.)

A SCRIPTURE STUDY PLANNING GROUP – was formed to carry on the work of the Alpha organizing committee. It carried on much of the work of planning Spiritual Life programs for the parish (at a time when the Spiritual Life Commission was not doing this). This group dissolved in 2010-11. Fr. Cole arrived in 2008 and about that time Eric Carpenter became Chairman of Spiritual Life (after Jim Cummings became seriously ill).

June 2005 – The first Spiritual growth activity chosen was regular Bible Study. The first Bible Study group read Acts of the Apostles together in Oct. 2005. Bible Studies have been held regularly since then.

June 2006 began planning for a Life in the Spirit Seminar, held Oct. 20-21, 2006, with support and participation of the Ss Cosmas & Damian Prayer Group. Live praise and worship music was available thanks to Denny Carleton. 36 adults + 14 youth (mostly junior high age) attended, total 50. In Nov. 2006 it was decided to organize a monthly Charismatic Prayer Meeting at Sacred Heart. The first meeting was Jan. 31, 2007.

Feb.-April 2007 The Alpha Program was held for a second time.

May 2, 2008 a Marian Retreat was led by Sr. Mary Ann Flannery (from the Jesuit Retreat House)

Summer 2008 – Fr. Cole presented talks at monthly picnic gatherings in June, July, and August.

Fall 2008 - Spir. Life began discussing Evangelization as a general subject, the idea of a Welcome Home Program for alienated Catholics was raised and the possibility of holding parish missions at Sacred Heart. (Carrol Wilhelm organized a fellowship group for returned/returning Catholics in 2016).

April 2009 – Vicki Petro, DRI at St. Richards, N. Olmsted met with Spir. Life to plan, USING OUR GIFTS TO BUILD GOD’S KINGDOM (part of Evangelization impulse). This program was held on 6 Tuesday nights Oct. 6 – Nov. 10, 2009, snacks, drinks were served. Over 50 people attended, childcare was provided.

Here’s a list of SH Ministries (compiled for the Gifts Program in 2009:

SACRED HEART MINISTRIES

Altar & Rosary (incl. Funeral lunches) - Mary Ann Diedrick/ Edie Taylor/Rosary Perkins

Church/Mass Lay Ministries

Choir- John Kowalski

Eucharistic Minsters, Lectors; & Ushers- Fr. Cole

Community Eucharistic Ministries –

Homebound – Diane Friebert

Hospital – Diane Friebert/Cindy Sanders

Welcome Nursing Home – Joe McCormick/Pat Yoby/Louise Dunn

Ecumenism – Judy Kruger

Finance Council – Fr. Cole

Food Collection for Oberlin Community Services – Suzanne George

IHN - Sue and Jack Kubicki

Majority of One – Nancy Schwarzwald

Peace & Justice – Gil Miranda/Sue Palmieri/Lori Taylor

PSR teaching, substitute teaching

Prayer Chain – Kathy Sobieski/Sue Kubicki

Prayer Meeting – Sue and Joe Palmieri

Prayer Shawls – Carrol Wilhelm

Social Events (coffee hours, special meals)- Sue Kubicki

Scripture Study – Sue and Joe Palmieri

Spiritual Life – Eric Carpenter

Sunshine Group (welcoming newcomers, visiting sick) – Sue Kubicki

Youth Group; Summer Bible Camp – John

We also identified these groups/needs:

Landscape/gardening (maintenance of flower beds)

Buildings and Grounds)

RCIA

Web Site Maintenance

March 2010 -had a series of Lenten speakers:

Fr. Al Krupp (diocesan priest) spoke at SH on LIVING THE EUCHARIST (Lenten speaker), Denny Carleton, a Catholic and professional musician in the Cleveland area

(who led Praise and Worship at our SH Life in the Spirit, 2006) presented an evening of Contemporary Christian music and spoke about his journey in faith (Feb. 23, 2010)

Also Mar. – May 2010 – discussed Long-range program needs:
Marriage and Family Spiritual Needs – Five Languages of Love Program (Bill Boomer) was identified and planned for Sat. Feb. 12, 2011

General Spiritual Growth – Journeys Program (developed at St. Mary of the Falls) was also identified (separate programs for men and women). The Women’s Journey weekend was Oct. 2-3 and Men’s Nov. 13-14, 2010

Eucharistic Adoration – Monthly Holy Hours began Sun. Oct. 24, 2010 and soon moved to the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6-8 pm to make it possible for people employed to stop in after work.

Dec. 2010 – Jan. 2011

Planned a new, weekly, self-sustaining Bible Study Program – held organizational meetings in Feb. – Mar. for those interested in forming weekly Scripture Study groups. Fr. Cole gave a talk, “Reading Scripture as the Word of God”, the program was actively promoted and 25 copies of New American Bible were ordered for free distribution. The program began with 4 separate Bible Study groups reading the Gospel of Mark, then groups individually deciding which Books of the Bible they would read. The Women’s Journey group became a Bible Study group.

Aug. 2011 – Exploring idea of organizing a Contemplative Prayer Group (Sue Palmieri and Diane Frieber)

Oct. 2011 – began recording 10:00 am mass on Sunday for broadcast on Oberlin Cable Coop as a mass for shut-ins and others.

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Nov. 27, 2011 – first mass using the new translation of the Roman missal

Feb. 11th, 2012 (Sat. 7:00 pm) Seasons of Marriage Program with Bill Boomer

Feb. 26-28th, 2012 – Parish Mission with Fr. Sean Ralph (St. Mary of the Falls)

May 2012 – planning future programs

PBS Series on Catholicism with Fr. Robert Barron (in Oct. 2012)

Parish Mission for 2014 with Peter Herbeck (Renewal Ministries, Ann Arbor)

Aug. 30, 2012 – Bill Boomer joined the Spiritual Life meeting to discuss: WILL OUR KIDS HAVE FAITH? Boomer’s answer was “IT’S VERY DOUBTFUL” UNLESS THINGS CHANGE. This topic has been a major one for Spiritual Life since that meeting.

Sept. 2012 Book discussion of Matthew Kelly, Rediscovering Catholicism, Tuesday nights, 7:00 pm

Oct. 14, 2012 Mass of the Anointing of the Sick – 60-70 people were anointed and several reported it to be a moving experience

Sun. Feb. 10, 2013 – Day of Recollection with Fr. Michael Denk (then at St. Joseph parish, Amherst)

March 3-5, 2013 Parish Mission on Reconciliation led by Fr. Phil Racco (St. Bernadette's – Westlake)

Life in the Spirit Seminar at Sacred Heart (3rd one) held Tues. nights Apr. 16-May 28, 2013 (33 participants began, 23 completed)

Nov. 12, 2013, Program, “The Catholic Way of Dying” with Fr. Joseph Koopman (40 attended)

Nov. – Dec. 2013 Our parish was asked to submit a formal response to “Pastoral Challenges to the Family in the Context of Evangelization, a document prepared by a Special Synod of Bishops who will gather in Rome in Oct. 2014. It included teaching on Family Planning, Divorce, and Homosexuality. Spir. Life helped organize a Parish Listening Session in Dec. and Fr. Cole submitted a report on our deliberations as requested.

Mar. 23-25, 2014 Parish Mission with Peter Herbeck (Renewal Ministries). – Peter is a dynamic speaker and made a powerful impression on the parish. He also met with Spiritual Life for a meal and suggested practical suggestions for faith building at Sacred Heart, including reading Forming Intentional Disciples, and Rebuilt: Awakening the Faithful...

April – Sept. 2014. Spiritual Life spent several meetings discussing the Implications of Re-Built; The Story of a Catholic Parish by Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran: The minutes of the April 24, 2014 detail this discussion. OUR PARISH EXISTS TO CHANGE HEARTS AND LIVES – LEAD PEOPLE INTO A PERSONAL, LIFE CHANGING ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS CHRIST THAT TRANSFORMS THEM INTO DISCIPLES AND MOTIVATES THEM TO SHARE THEIR FAITH WITH OTHERS.

Key questions considered in these meetings included:

GOD IS LOVE: What does this key concept mean in practical terms?

What does being a Christian mean?

What is keeping our church from growing?

Is there confusion about Catholic Teaching and Practice?

What is our parish culture? Is our SH parish culture resistant to change?

Sept. 2014 – Spir. Life decided NOT to make a formal recommendation to Parish Council regarding the Apr.-Aug. deliberations, but wait for Council to read and discuss Rebuilt themselves. Meanwhile Spir. Life will read Sherry Weddell's, Forming Intentional Disciples.

AND Spir. Life decided to distribute 150 copies of Matthew Kelly's book, Rediscover Catholicism as Christmas presents to our parishioners at holiday masses:

ALSO

It was decided that Fr. Mark Ott (Cleveland diocesan seminary) would present a Parish Mission in 2015. It was held Feb. 21-22, 2015

Oct. 2015 – agreed to begin a monthly Healing Prayer Ministry, the first Sunday of each month. A Healing Prayer Team was formed and trained by Sandy Zorn, Pastoral Associate, St. John Neumann, Strongsville

Nov. 2015: agreed Diane Vreuls would give a reading from her new book of religious poetry on Dec. 6, 2015 at SH.

Agreed to begin Grounds for Faith discussions (Adult Educ.) each Sun. morning before 10:00 a.m. Mass – to foster fellowship/sharing through discussion of the previous week's Sunday homily.

Dec. 2015 Fr. Norm Douglas & Larry Vuillemin will lead the 2016 Parish Mission (GROW God Revives our World), Sun.-Tues. Feb. 14-16, 2016

Mar. 2016 – Spir. Life approved the creation of a new Discussion/Sharing group to share stories of conversion/re-version (homecoming) to Catholicism, to be organized by Carol Wilhelm.

ALSO

The revised SH Parish Mission Statement now is: "As baptized Catholics, we accept our call from Jesus Christ to nurture a personal relationship with Him and be His presence in the world by reaching the lost, inspiring the faithful and making the Church essential in the lives of our people."

Apr. 2016 Fr. Norm Douglas & Larry Vuillemin will lead the Lenten 2017 Parish Mission (RESILIENT LIFE). It was held Mar. 19-21, 2017.

Spir. Life also discussed Ministry to Young Adults/Younger Parents at length during Apr. - Sept. 2016

June 2016 Healing Prayer Ministry began Sun. June 5th after 10:00 a.m. mass

Oct. 2016 Women's Renewal (hosted at St. Joseph Parish) led by Deacon Tom Daw with 1 Team member plus 8 participants from Sacred Heart.

Oct. 8-9 2016. Spir. Life participated in the SH Ministry Fair which attracted over 50 people.

Nov. 2016 – announced that Olivia Sliman would present her, Faith is Fun program after 5:00 p.m. mass on Sat. Dec. 3rd. (this event was the result of efforts to reach younger parishioners)

Spir. Life also considered and approved a new, Healing Care Ministry, Formational Prayer, proposed by Ruth Steinacker, a new member of our parish and charismatic prayer group. Ruth comes with considerable credentials and experience in this form of Healing Ministry and we are fortunate she has joined us.

Dec. 2016 – over 100 attended Olivia Sliman Faith is Fun event on Sat. Dec. 3rd. 250 copies of Matthew Kelly’s new book, Resisting Happiness, were distributed at Christmas masses as gifts to parish families.

April 2017. Men’s Renewal (for our Cluster, hosted by St. Joseph’s Amherst) held April 21-22, 2017 - Deacon Daw, Spiritual Director + 5 attendees (Grude, Carpenter, DeLeon, Hanko, Thompson)

May – Oct. 2017 discussed Sherry Weddell’s books: Forming Intentional Disciples and the sequel: Becoming a Parish of Intentional Disciples. We agreed that forming Disciples of Jesus Christ is our parish goal, but also recognized that we have a long way to go to reach this goal. How can we make more progress in reaching it? Many suggestions have been made. Our efforts/programs have tended to “stand alone” We need to find a way to link the programs so that they build on each other, helping people grow spiritually. This idea has become a central theme in the work of Spiritual Life since this time.

Sept. 2017, Fr. Michael Stalla, Pastor Ss Cosmas & Damian, Twinsburg agreed to lead our parish mission Feb. 25, 26, 27th, 2018. His presentations will address the necessity of developing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. (The Mission, ENCOUNTERING CHRIST – the Conversion Experience) was held on these dates.

Oct. 2017 Women’s Renewal (hosted by St. Joseph’s Amherst) held October 21-22, 2017 - Deacon Daw Spiritual Director, +plus 2 team +3 attendees, (Lalonde, Nicki, Steinacker)

Oct. 2017 Bill Boomer agreed to offer his Program, The Five Languages of Apology at Oberlin Sun. Jan. 28, 2018 at 11:15 a.m. (after the 10:00 a.m. mass). The program was held on that date and approx. 50 attended. A lunch was served.

Oct. 2017 New Leadership for Spiritual Life – Susan Hanko agreed to assume leadership of the Spiritual Life Commission from Eric Carpenter who has been Chairman for the past 10 years.

Nov. 2017 Several members attended the Conference, Cultivating Missionary Disciples, at St. Ladislav Parish Fri. Nov. 10, 2017. A key concept discussed was HOW DO WE DISCOVER WHAT PROGRAM CONTENT WILL ATTRACT PARISHIONERS? One answer to this question is that parishes must deliver information in multiple ways (e.g. record talks at programs and post the recordings on our parish website). The need for

better publicity of these events was also considered. The need to build community within the parish was also emphasized.

Mar. 2018 discussion of a Parish Mission for 2019 began. Since response to Fr. Stalla's ENCOUNTERING CHRIST Mission last month was so positive, it was agreed that we would consider inviting him to present our Mission next year. Our Feb. Mission, Encounter Christ, is actually Part One of a three part series: Encounter Christ, Conversion, and Discernment. Eric will ask Fr. Stalla if he is available to present the Conversion Retreat in 2019.

By Eric Carpenter, revised 4/5/18