



**Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador
Basilica-Cathedral Parish of St. John the Baptist**

Strategic Plan - January 31, 2015 – December 31, 2017

Presented to the Parish Pastoral Council April 23, 2015

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I. Parish History



The Roman Catholic Church in Newfoundland and Labrador dates back to May 1784 and the Basilica-Cathedral Parish of St. John the Baptist dates back to that time. In the early years the center of the Church and the home of the Bishop was St. Mary's Chapel on Henry St. in the centre of St. John's. In 1834 Bishop Michael Anthony Fleming revealed his plan to erect a large and imposing stone church as a Cathedral for Newfoundland and Labrador in St. John's. At the time St. John's was a

small town of some 19,000 inhabitants, of whom about 14,000 were Catholic. The new Cathedral was consecrated on September 9, 1855 and today it is still the home of the Archbishop of St. John's. In 1955, during the one hundredth anniversary of its consecration, the Cathedral was raised to the rank of Basilica by Pope Pius XII. The Basilica-Cathedral Parish of St. John the Baptist has been the principal Roman Catholic Parish in Newfoundland and Labrador for over two hundred and thirty years.

II. Mission Statement

The mission of the Basilica-Cathedral Parish of St. John the Baptist is the furtherance of the Church's mission of salvation, as a community of Christian people worshipping the Lord together, proclaiming the word and responding to human needs. We acknowledge the common priesthood of all baptized, wherein all members of our faith community are called to share in the ministries that serve the Church's mission.



Photo credits: St. Mary's Chapel on Henry Street from a painting by Wally Brants, 1983.
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Photo credits: Basilica – Basilica Website

Vision

The vision of the Basilica-Cathedral Parish of St. John the Baptist is:

- 1. EVANGELIZATION - Vision: Our Parish furthers the Church's mission of salvation by proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ, through words and actions, and by inviting all to avail of God's gift of salvation.**
- 2. LITURGY - Vision: Our Parish is a community of Christian people worshiping the Lord by proclaiming the word and celebrating God's grace through the Sacraments in a reverent, joyful and welcoming community.**
- 3. EDUCATION AND FORMATION IN THE FAITH - Vision: Our Parish is a vibrant community where parishioners of all ages enthusiastically participate in life-long formation of their Catholic faith through study, understanding, and teaching.**
- 4. OUTREACH - Vision: Members of our Parish share in the ministries that serve the Church's mission and respond to human needs through works of mercy, the sharing of our time and talents and responding to human needs with respect, patience and compassion for all members of our community.**
- 5. COMMUNITY – Vision: Our parish is welcoming and hospitable where all are known, included and loved as the people of God. We support each other by our prayers and actions during the joys, sorrows and challenges of life**
- 6. FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND ACCOUNTABILITY - Vision: Our parish strives to be self-sustaining and accountable in all pertaining to finances, buildings and maintenance.**

III. Goals

Each ministry group and committee developed a vision to live out the Mission Statement of the parish.

Baptism - Vision: Our parish meets the needs of parents who are requesting the Sacrament of Baptism for their children by assisting them in their baptismal preparation and rejoicing with them on the day of their child's baptism.

Basilica Community Builders – Vision: The **Basilica Community Builders** is made up of Basilica Parishioners who work together collectively and collaboratively with members of other ministries and committees of the Parish, to build Parish as community. The Basilica Community Builders plan activities that are aimed at (a) connecting Parishioners to Parish life and (b) providing support to the already existent ministries and committees (groups) whose goal it is to build Parish as community.

Bereavement – Vision: Our mission statement is to respond as compassionately as possible to the needs of those who have lost a loved one, to help them through their days of confusion to arrange a Mass at the Basilica, or a church service at the funeral home. This is usually responded to by our Bereavement teams and they see it through to meeting with the family, attending a vigil as necessary, attending the Mass/funeral service, and any other assistance they need during this period to ensure that everything flows as it should.

Catechesis – Vision: The purpose of the catechetical office is to provide family catechesis for any family who requests it using the family resource from Born of the Spirit Series. A part of this catechetical purpose is to prepare families for sacramental preparation.

Catholic Women's League – Vision: The Catholic Women's League of Canada is a national organization rooted in gospel values calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God.

CWL Basilica Council was founded on November 23,1974, and celebrated it's 40th Anniversary on November 20,2014

The Catholic Women's League is the largest organization of Catholic Women in Canada with a tradition of service to others as expressed in its motto "For God and

for Canada."

Objectives: to achieve individual and collective spiritual development, to promote the teachings of the Catholic Church, to exemplify the Christian ideals in the home and family life, to protect the sanctity of human life, to enhance the role of women in church and society, to recognize the human dignity of all peoples, to uphold and defend Christian education and values in the modern world, to contribute to the understanding and growth of religious freedom, social justice, peace and harmony.

Children's Liturgy – Vision: The goal of Children's Liturgy is to adapt the Liturgy of the Word to a child's level of understanding. Through simplified readings, discussion and activities, leaders help the children discover, through the Sunday Gospel, the Good News of Salvation in their life journey.

Collectors and Counters: The goal of collectors is to collect the weekly offerings, both financial and otherwise, in a respectful manner, and present these gifts at the altar. The counters are responsible for the tallying and bank deposit of collection funds.

Cross, Candle Bearers and Thurifer – Vision: Cross, candle bearers and thurifer (when recommended) lead the priest and parishioners to the altar in a dignified manner at liturgical celebrations.

Custodian – Vision: As **custodian** of the Basilica Parish I aim to provide a safe and clean environment for Parishioners to take part in the activities of the church. I also strive to help all other ministries fulfill their visions and goals by supporting their efforts in anyway my duties allow.

Development and Peace – Vision: The Canadian Catholic Organization for DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE, a democratic movement for international solidarity, supports partners in the Global South in the pursuit of alternatives to unjust social, political and economic structures. It educates the Canadian population about the causes of impoverishment of peoples and mobilizes actions for change.

In the struggle for human dignity, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE associates with social change groups in the North and South. It supports women in their search for social and economic justice.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE, the official development organization of the

Canadian Catholic Church, is inspired by the values of the Gospel, particularly "the preferential option for the poor."
(Adopted September 10, 1995.)

The BROTHER JIM McSHEFFREY DIOCESAN COUNCIL of the Archdiocese of St. John's is composed of active Members including representatives of Local Groups and/or individual Members... By virtue of its mandate, the Diocesan Council collaborates with the Archbishop of St. John's as well as parish priests and parish councils in order to engage the entire community in actions of international solidarity ... It promotes the Fall Action Campaign and Share Lent Campaign in parishes throughout the Archdiocese. (Based on the Bylaws of Brother Jim McSheffrey Diocesan Council of St. John's)

Emmaus House – Vision: The goal of the **Emmaus House Ministry** is to work collaboratively with four other Parishes in the distribution of food to those who come to the Emmaus House food bank site. This Ministry involves a commitment, by the representatives of each of the five Parishes, to attend one afternoon per week to distribute the food to the clients.

Environment – Vision: The Environment Committee is responsible for ensuring that the main altar of the Basilica is decorated with flowers for all feasts and other special liturgical events throughout the year.

Eucharistic Minister – Vision: The goal of the **Eucharistic Ministry** is to assist the priest in administering the sacraments of Holy Communion, and have the greatest reverence in managing the consecrated bread and wine.

Finance – Vision: The Parish Finance Committee is required under Canon Law. It reports to the Pastor and is not a part of the Parish Pastoral Council responsibilities. The Committee works closely with the PPC and is pleased to do so. We keep the PPC up to date on the financial matters affecting the Parish through the membership of the Committee Chair at each meeting of the PPC.

The basic role of the Committee is as follows:

The Basilica Parish Finance Committee assists the pastor in the administration of parish temporal matters. The Committee is responsible for the Parish Annual Budget and Annual Stewardship reporting, promoting the financial health of the Parish, monitoring the state of Parish buildings and other assets, assisting in planning and evaluating any necessary renovations and assisting the pastor with any other temporal responsibilities.

Gift Bearers: - Vision: The purpose of the gift bearers is for members of the congregation to bring forth the gifts of bread and wine during the offertory procession on behalf of the whole parish community.

Hospitality/Ushers – Vision: The goal of the **Hospitality Ministry** (greeters for liturgical celebrations) is to build Parish as community by offering a smile and a warm welcome to all parishioners and visitors who come celebrate with us in our Basilica Parish. It is our hope that in offering an inclusive welcome, we are creating an inviting atmosphere that will draw the whole assembly into full, active participation in the Liturgy. A branch of this committee is responsible for providing refreshments at various functions.

Lector – Vision: The goal of the **lector** is to proclaim God's word to the people in such a way that it touches the hearts of those who hear it and challenges them to live that word.

Liturgy Committee – Vision: The role of the Liturgy Committee is, along with the Pastor, to prepare liturgical celebrations through prayer and reflection. The goal is to encourage the full, active and conscious participation of the assembly.

Music Ministry – Vision: The primary goal of our **Music Ministry** is to lead the singing of the Assembly with quality music - keeping in mind the liturgical principles of choosing music which is pastorally appropriate, well composed, and fits the liturgical action.

Newsletter – Vision: The goal of the **Newsletter Committee** is to create a Parish Newsletter by gathering pictures and stories that highlight the activities and celebrations of all Parish ministries. The Newsletter, also, acknowledges the milestones and achievements of Basilica parishioners.

RCIA – Vision: The rite of Christian initiation is designed for adults who, after hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed, consciously and freely seek the living God and enter the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts. By God's help they will be strengthened spiritually during their preparation and at the proper time will receive the sacraments fruitfully. (RCIA #1)

Religious Articles Store – Vision: The Religious Articles Store has a threefold vision.

- a) Financially we help our parish to sustain many programs
- b) We help supply our parishioners with religious articles of interest and need

- c) We also help people who enter our store not to buy but need a listening ear, a kind word and a caring heart.

Sacristan - Vision: Our sacristans understand that our Parish Liturgy is a very important event that is the heart of the whole parish life. Our policy is to make sure that all things are in readiness, so that each Mass and other liturgical events "flow smoothly."

Secretary – Vision: The role of the secretary is to aid and assist the Parish Priest and help support, as far as possible, Parish ministries to achieve their goals.

Servers – Vision: Servers at Eucharistic Liturgies are expected to follow the order of service with respect and dignity, making sure the Liturgy flows smoothly with the altar set, prayers and readings properly marked and the bread and wine presented at the appropriate time.

Social Committee – Vision: The mandate of the Social Committee is to work in conjunction with the Basilica Community Builders and the Hospitality Committee. The committee is responsible for receptions, following Special Parish Celebrations by supplying tea/coffee and treats after the Celebrations and help with Advent Morning Coffee, after Mass, on Thursdays of Advent.

*Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth.
It is the very purpose of life,
and not something we do in our spare time.
Shirley Chisholm*

Appendix

Basilica - Cathedral Parish of St. John the Baptist

List of Ministries, groups and committees – October 2014

1. Baptism
2. BCB – Basilica Community Builders
3. Bereavement
4. Catechesis
5. Catholic Women’s League
6. Children’s Liturgy
7. Collectors and Counters
8. Cross, Candle Bearers and Thurifer
9. Custodian
10. Development and Peace
11. Emmaus House
12. Environment
13. Eucharistic Ministers
14. Finance
15. Gift Bearers
16. Hospitality/Ushers – Sunday Greeters and Refreshments
17. Lector
18. Liturgy Committee
19. Music Ministry
20. Newsletter Committee
21. Parish Pastoral Council
22. RCIA
23. Religious Articles Store

24. Sacristan and Assistants

25. Secretary

26. Servers

27. Social Committee