

St. Frances Cabrini Parish Community

Parish Pastoral Plan

Part Seven

Parish Priority: Increased Commitment and Involvement in Parish Life

By Colleen Garneau

When I was asked to be on the Parish Envisioning Team, I immediately knew I would say “yes” because being involved in parish life has always been second nature to me. I am so glad I said “yes,” for in doing so I met some new parishioners and got to know others even better. Lori Tedjeske, our Catholic Leadership Institute consultant, Audrey Wilson, and Monsignor McCormac rounded up our Team. It was such an honor for me and humbling to be part of such an awesome Team of people committed to the same goal, that is, to work together to sustain the future of our parish through active involvement of the parishioners. Growing up, parish involvement was a major part of my life, whether at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, St. John the Evangelist Parish, or here at Saint Frances Cabrini Parish. Being involved has always brought me a deep sense of satisfaction and connection to the church community. I strive to pass this on to my husband and kids.

This leads me to why I chose to write about the third priority, which is **INCREASED COMMITMENT AND INVOLVEMENT IN PARISH LIFE**. We were tasked individually and as a Team to come up with a definition. The definition we came up with is: “*We desire to have the parish be the center of our parishioners’ lives.*” The rationale for this definition is: “*Involvement in the parish life furthers the work of Christ outside of Mass by bringing people into a greater sense of belonging to our Church community. We believe that a deeper commitment and involvement in parish life results in a richer experience of our Lord in and through others.*”

A few key thoughts leading up to this definition from members of the Team include: “Commitment involves sharing our time, talent, and treasure to the best of our ability and availability,” and “It is an opportunity for us to deepen our faith and bond with other members of the parish to create a vibrant community of faith in our parish.” We collectively felt that making a conscious decision to share our time (helping on various committees), talent (lector, choir, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, visiting the sick, providing food to the less fortunate, gardening, plumbing, electrical, etc.), and treasure (financial support), is a priority for the sustainability of our parish in the future, as it gives us a sense of identity and ownership in a community of like-minded individuals where Christ is the center of our lives.

All of this can be achieved by making it a priority to extend ourselves beyond our active participation in Mass and to enter fully into who Christ has called us to be, that is, His disciples. Saint Frances Cabrini Parish will be blessed by the fruits of this increased involvement.

“For it is in giving of ourselves that we receive.” (Saint Francis of Assisi)