

St. Frances Cabrini Parish Community

Parish Pastoral Plan

Part Three

Values and Beliefs: Reverence

By Robert and Kelsey Cole – Envisioning Team Members

We were extremely blessed to be afforded the opportunity to serve the Saint Frances Cabrini Parish on the Envisioning Team for the past year. When approached with the idea of joining the Team, we were both humbled and shocked to be asked. We both had a similar thought process. First, what an incredible honor to be asked by Monsignor McCormac and the Parish Pastoral Staff, and to be entrusted with helping to shape a vision for the next generation of the Parish. Secondly, what could we bring to this dynamic group that would add value? We were presented with an opportunity from the Lord and we took it. As Samuel said, ***“Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.”***

In our meetings, we were constantly amazed by the dedication, thoughtfulness, and desire of the entire Envisioning Team. We quickly learned that each person was placed in this group for a reason. Everyone brought a unique perspective to not only what our community does but also how it should function. Throughout all our conversations, reflections, and ad hoc work – one thing became clear to our entire group...***there is a reason that we do things the way that we do.*** More specifically, there is thought and dialogue that goes into everything that occurs within our community. We called that characteristic, which is present and should continue to be enhanced, ***reverence.***

Our Envisioning Team defined this **reverence** as: ***We are a people who hold a profound devotion to the Sacramental Presence of Jesus among us as well as a spiritual presence of Jesus among us. We deeply respect every person by acknowledging their God-given dignity.***

There is deliberateness to the decisions that are made; from the education, appearance, and demeanor of our liturgical ministers to our wonderful music ministry, everything that we do is to honor, respect, and serve God. We have an extremely dedicated team of people who provide us with a peaceful and joyful atmosphere to know and love the Lord every time we come together to celebrate Mass. Through their work, we are afforded the opportunity to learn and love His teachings, free from distractions. We must continue to be conscious of those efforts and commit ourselves to fostering an atmosphere that is not only worthy of His love, but also dignifies His presence. As an Envisioning Team member, John Chapman, said, “when we go to Mass, we are going to meet the Lord in His house.”

In doing these things, we believe that not only will our individual faith journeys be strengthened but our community will also grow stronger and more present in and with the Holy Spirit.

We encourage everyone to help us continue to foster an environment that will allow us to celebrate Mass in a thoughtful, worthy, and **reverent** manner and at the same time, extend this same **reverence** to everyone we encounter in life.

With Love and Gratitude,
Robert & Kelsey Cole