

Praised be Jesus Christ!

In case you have not heard yet, I have an exciting announcement to share with you. After consultation with both the Pastoral and Finance Councils, St. Mary Parish & School has launched a Strategic Pastoral Planning process. Many of you may be familiar with strategic planning from the business world and understand its importance. While there is certainly a practical and organizational aspect to parish and school life, that work always flows from our primary mission: forming intentional disciples and helping one another grow in holiness so that, one day, we may all become saints in heaven.

With a parish and school of our size, our leadership has discerned that this is the right time to formalize our goals and establish clear ways to measure our progress. This process will help guide our mission and strengthen our community for years to come. We are blessed to be assisted in this effort by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and Marquette University, both of whom are helping other parishes and schools throughout the Archdiocese with similar planning efforts. In the coming weeks, we will be gathering feedback from you—our parishioners, parents, staff, and faculty. Parent surveys for the school have already begun.

On Palm Sunday, we launched the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) to survey the parish. Some of you may remember this survey from several years ago; unfortunately, that process was not completed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The DMI survey will help us better understand where we are as a parish and school community, how we are living as disciples, and how we can more effectively form intentional disciples moving forward.

You can help by participating in the Disciple Maker Index and encouraging others to do the same. All parishioners may respond during the window between March 29 and May 10 via:

- The link on our website homepage
- Flocknote email reminders
- Kiosks in the Marian Room before and after all Masses
- Paper copies by request at the parish office

Pastoral Planning Leadership Teams have been formed for both the parish and the school, and I am deeply grateful for their dedication to this important work. By the fall, we hope to present a unified report and share the results and future direction with the entire parish and school community. St. Mary Parish & School has a rich history of more than 180 years, and I am excited to see what the Lord has in store for the next 180. This Strategic Pastoral Planning process will help us develop a clear vision for the future.

Thank you to everyone involved in organizing and leading this effort, and thank you in advance to all of you who will take the time to complete the surveys and share your feedback. May God continue to bless you, and may God continue to bless St. Mary Parish & School.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,



Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz
Pastor