

*IMPORTANT MESSAGE
FROM
THE PASTOR*

Let your voice be heard



St. Ignatius
Loyola
NEW YORK

25 February 2022

Dear Parishioners,

In September 2020 I wrote an essay that was published in the parish's e-newsletter. In it I reflected on the need for a new paradigm of Church in a post-pandemic world. It was my goal to focus our attention on the extraordinary challenges of our times that the Church must address if it is to remain relevant.

More than harboring a lethal disease, the pandemic exposed, in stark relief, wounds that require healing—the wounds of indifference, intolerance, and abject injustice. I believe we are at a defining moment of what it means to be Church as well as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. To return to the routine of the past would mean that we failed to learn from our tortured experiences of the pandemic. We will have abdicated our responsibility to minister to those in need whose lives came into sharper focus during the course of the pandemic, to care for our common home that is being ravaged by misuse and waste, and to love one another without the discriminatory filters that have separated us for far too long.

It is with confidence that we, as a parish, can look forward to the future in a post-pandemic world. The 31 words of our *Mission Statement* are the very foundation upon which our new paradigm will be built. They read:

**The love of Christ impels us to welcome all,
to worship joyfully and pray fervently,
to walk together with those in need,
and to reverence God in the wonder of Creation.**

Our Mission Statement is both a mirror and a compass. It describes who we are and who we aspire to be. To help us envision a new paradigm of Church that is grounded in our Mission Statement, I appointed a planning committee in March 2021 and charged them with charting a path that would animate the words of our Mission Statement—in a sense, to provide a blueprint that captured the spirit of who we are and guide us in a post-pandemic reality. The parishioners who did not hesitate to accept my invitation and who generously committed themselves to the task were: Kathy Murnion (co-chair), Eric Van Nostrand (co-chair), Ivan Briggiler, Rosario Conde-Johanek, Holly Curp, Adele Gallo, Father Mark Hallinan, S.J., Patti Hogan, Brian Pinter, Jean Santopatre, Jacques Torchon, and Scott Warren.

More than an exercise in strategic planning, the committee engaged in a discernment process and opened themselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit so their minds and hearts might be open to one another's hopes and dreams for the parish's future and how those aspirations could be achieved.

In the course of their deliberations the planning committee recognized the need for input from parishioners. Working with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), the committee designed a survey instrument that was distributed in the early Fall, both electronically and in hard copy. CARA collated, evaluated, and summarized the 790 survey forms that were submitted and, in November 2021, delivered its report to the planning committee. A copy of the report may be viewed electronically at ignatius.nyc/surveyresults. A two-page statistical summary of the report is included with this letter.

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Finally, in December 2021, the planning committee delivered to me a *vision statement* that I am now sharing with you. It is a statement that reflects a labor of love—love for the Church, love for our parish, love for our natural environment, and love for the people we are called to serve as disciples of Jesus Christ. This vision of what our future could look like brings our mission statement to life, wraps it in flesh, provides a rhythm for its heartbeat, and calls us to follow a path to a new paradigm of Church.

I am extremely grateful to the members of the planning committee for what they accomplished. The vision statement before us is essentially an invitation to liberate ourselves from the comfort of simply conforming to habits of the past and to open our minds and hearts to new ways of being Church. This vision challenges us to embrace the future by responding to the crucial, compelling, and complex circumstances of today's world.

If the vision drafted by the planning committee is to be realized, we, communally and individually, need to take ownership of it. Only then will we be ready to proceed to the next phase of formulating *action plans* for each aspect articulated in the statement. These action plans will be the building blocks of a new paradigm of Church.

Your reflections and comments on the vision statement are of great importance as we proceed to the next phase of the planning process. An ideal scenario would be to convene a “town hall meeting” so we could listen to one another's comments about the parish and its direction as envisioned by the planning committee. Given the present constraints for holding such a meeting, there will be several alternative opportunities for you to participate in this process. They are as follows:

1. Participating in a 30-minute listening session after each Mass on the weekend of March 19-20, facilitated by a member of the planning committee.
2. Participating in a virtual town hall on March 30 that will have break-out groups, facilitated by members of the planning committee. Registration to participate will be required.
3. If you are a member of a parish ministry, the chair of your ministry will facilitate a listening session for your ministry group.
4. Sending to me your written comments.

The purpose of these sessions, consistent with the synodal process encouraged by Pope Francis, is to listen respectfully to one another without engaging in a discussion of the comments being made. The facilitator will offer a brief introduction and acknowledge those who wish to speak.

As we plan together for the future of the parish, I ask that you read the vision statement, reflect on it in your prayer, and participate in one of the listening sessions so that your voice may be heard.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us through this planning process so that all that we do now and in the future may redound to the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Gesalonia

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VISION STATEMENT



St. Ignatius
Loyola
NEW YORK

St. Ignatius Loyola Planning Committee

A Vision for Our Parish

The Church of St. Ignatius Loyola is a community of faith that shares the gifts each of us brings; a community in which our faith is enriched through the cultivation of a deep spirituality; and a community of diversity that seeks to grow in unity of faith and purpose. The crisis of the pandemic has bolstered our resolve to re-encounter one another and create a “new paradigm of Church.” This year, we convened a Planning Committee of twelve diverse and committed parishioners to develop this new paradigm. After much prayer, contemplation, feedback from fellow parishioners, and discussion, the Committee presents this Vision for a post-pandemic parish.

WE WELCOME ALL

As a community immersed in Ignatian spirituality, we will continue to actively and warmly welcome participation in our parish community from all walks of life, intentionally seeking out others to experience our faith together. We fervently hope that more people will want to deepen their engagement in faith with us. Our new paradigm of Church will express even more openness and warmth to our parish community and our neighbors alike. We will accomplish this by:

- creating a parish that more people will want to come to because of our style of worship, spirit of welcome and inclusion, and active engagement with the world beyond our doors.
- ensuring that we respond to contemporary concerns in matters of society and Church.
- engaging teens, young adults, and children, and balancing our programming to attract them. We will engage with the contemporary concerns of youth and young adults and will seek to address those concerns in homilies, ministries, and programs.
- spreading the word of our work more widely via dialog with other parishes and community organizations, as well as social media.
- fostering community in our parish with community Masses, coffee hours, and a cohesive sense of camaraderie.
- maintaining openness and support for long-time parishioners as we transition to new endeavors as a parish.

WE WORSHIP WITH JOY

Our faith in Jesus Christ and our encounter with Christ in the Eucharist will remain central to our identity as a Catholic Christian community of faith and love. Our faith leads us to action that is rooted in contemplative prayer. Our new paradigm of Church will always be open to creative ways in which we can celebrate the Eucharist, unite ourselves in prayer and be formed in our faith. We will accomplish this by:

- offering opportunities to spiritually nourish our discipleship, offering enrichment programs specific to various age groups so that all have the opportunity for spiritual growth and development.
- amplifying women’s voices in worship and in leading prayer in a variety of settings and formats.
- working to train lay ministers more generally for broader leadership in the parish.
- focusing our energies and resources on what we can do well and what responds to the current needs of the members of our community and the larger community which we serve. To this end, we will actively discern whether our current roster of ministries should be simplified to facilitate the concentration of effort and resources that we desire.
- encouraging more creative forms of worship including a broad set of musical languages that reflect the diversity of styles in prayer and worship within the Catholic tradition.



WE WALK TOGETHER WITH THOSE IN NEED

Our parish community works to foster social justice, via our worship and via direct services. We are committed to both charity and justice; seeking to serve the immediate needs of God's people while working to build a more just and equitable world. Our parish's gratitude for Catholic social teaching is an inspiring light that has drawn many into SIL, reinvigorating how we put our faith into action. Our new paradigm of Church will continue to embody our commitment to social justice, while taking an even more inclusive approach. We will accomplish this by:

- highlighting the Church's teaching on social issues.
- advocating for greater awareness and adoption of issues and causes central to Catholic social teaching and the concerns of our parish.
- providing more opportunities for parishioners to engage in direct services, seeing the impact of our social justice work with first-hand experiences. We will work to make service opportunities easier for our parishioners.
- working in partnership with agencies and organizations—local, national, and international—with expertise in the areas in which we seek to act in charity and justice.
- involving teens and young adults more in our social justice work and engaging more with local Catholic schools. We must actively recruit parishioners of all ages: children, teens, young adults, and beyond.

WE REVERENCE GOD IN THE WONDER OF CREATION

We will become a *Laudato Si* parish, embodying the goal articulated by Pope Francis to care for our common home. Our new paradigm of Church will call us to transform ourselves while reverencing God's creation. We will embrace what we can do as individuals and as a community to contribute to a sustainable future. We will accomplish this by:

- adopting a parish-wide focus on the goals of the *Laudato Si* parishes program, aligning our parish's operations with responses to: the cry of the earth; the cry of the poor; ecological economics; adapting sustainable lifestyles; ecological education; ecological spirituality; and community engagement.
- internally converting to usage of environmentally acceptable materials and instituting policies for energy efficiency, waste reduction, recycling, and the use of environmentally sound products and materials. We will also offer programs that draw from contemporary Church teachings, as well as scientifically sound resources, to educate our parishioners on environmental issues.
- externally educating and advocating for climate and environmental issues. We will work with local community service organizations to offer our parishioners opportunities to commit to public space improvement.

DECEMBER 2021



SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS



St. Ignatius
Loyola
NEW YORK



Parish Life Survey – Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, New York, New York
CARA – Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

There were 750 valid respondents to the Parish Life Survey age 16 and older at Church of St. Ignatius, 589 to the online survey and 161 via paper surveys. The percentage giving each response, calculated out of 100 percent, is shown below. The percentage not responding (NR) is shown separately, also calculated out of 100 percent.

*Greetings! St. Ignatius Parish is beginning a planning process to understand what role the parish should play in our families and our city in the post-pandemic world. This survey will help us to better understand your needs. Your individual response is extremely important. Please respond by marking an “X” in the appropriate boxes below. If a question does not apply to you, please leave it blank. **Thank you!***

1. Which Mass do you *usually* attend at this parish?

Please select only one Mass time.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 10 1. Saturday 5:30 pm | 10 6. Sunday 7:30 pm |
| 8 2. Sunday 8 am | 10 7. I do not regularly |
| 12 3. Sunday 9:30 am | attend Mass at the |
| 34 4. Sunday 11 am – Solemn | parish |
| 16 5. Sunday 11 am – Family | NR=2 |

Please use these responses for the questions below.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1=Not at All | 3=Somewhat |
| 2=Only a Little | 4=Very or Very Much |
| Blank=Don’t Know or Not Applicable | |

*How **satisfied overall** are you with these areas of weekend Masses for the Mass you most regularly attend.*

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1 2 3 4 NR | |
| 5 10 29 57 8 | 2. Sound clarity during Mass |
| 1 3 16 80 8 | 3. Music |
| 1 1 14 84 9 | 4. Cantors or song leaders |
| 1 3 26 70 7 | 5. Readers/lectors |
| 2 6 28 64 6 | 6. Homilies |
| 1 8 26 64 8 | 7. Joyfulness of the worship experience |

*How much do the following **attract** you to this parish?*

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1 2 3 4 NR | |
| 3 7 24 66 7 | 8. Its open, welcoming spirit |
| 1 3 21 74 6 | 9. The quality of the liturgy |
| 2 4 21 73 6 | 10. The quality of the music |
| 22 16 25 38 30 | 11. Its religious education/formation for children and youth |
| 12 17 34 38 22 | 12. Its faith formation for adults |
| 10 11 24 55 11 | 13. Its commitment to social justice/peace |
| 4 10 27 59 8 | 14. The sense of belonging you feel here |
| 3 5 16 76 6 | 15. Its identity as a Jesuit parish |

*How **effective** are these ways of communicating parish news to you?*

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 2 3 4 NR | |
| 6 14 34 47 8 | 16. Announcements read at Mass |
| 3 7 26 64 10 | 17. Weekly e-newsletter |
| 6 16 41 38 12 | 18. Parish website |
| 5 11 31 53 9 | 19. Printed weekly bulletins |
| 28 22 30 21 21 | 20. Social media |

21. If any, what social media platform do you use most frequently? **NR= 54**

Please use these responses for the questions below.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1=No Priority | 3=Medium Priority |
| 2=A Little Priority | 4=High Priority |
| Blank=Don’t Know or Not Applicable | |

*How much **priority** should the parish give to the following ministries and programs?*

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1 2 3 4 NR | |
| 2 8 37 53 9 | 22. Social activities to build community |
| 5 24 41 29 12 | 23. Opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration |
| 3 5 22 70 16 | 24. Children’s religious education/formation |
| 3 6 29 62 15 | 25. Youth ministry |
| 1 7 38 54 13 | 26. Adult faith formation |
| 3 10 33 55 8 | 27. Opportunities for parishioners to learn more about contemporary issues within our Church |

Please use these responses for the questions below.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1=Strongly Disagree | 3=Somewhat Agree |
| 2=Somewhat Disagree | 4=Strongly Agree |
| Blank=Don’t Know or Not Applicable | |

*Please **respond** to the following about parish life.*

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1 2 3 4 NR | |
| 3 5 29 63 10 | 28. I am made to feel welcome at this parish |
| 2 7 37 54 12 | 29. This parish encourages us to walk together with those in need, the outcasts of the world, and those whose dignity has been violated |
| 3 11 49 37 32 | 30. This parish accompanies young people in the creation of a hope-filled future |
| 2 4 24 70 12 | 31. Catholics have an obligation to care for the natural environment |
| 1 5 28 66 15 | 32. This parish shows reverence to God in the wonder of creation |
| 7 12 38 43 17 | 33. Our parish needs a plan for how to conserve natural resources |
| 5 13 50 32 17 | 34. There should be opportunities for parishioners to share reflections in parish communications |
| 3 4 32 61 16 | 35. There should be more opportunities for women to use their gifts, skills, service and leadership at the parish |

Please use these responses for the questions below.

1=Strongly Disagree 3=Somewhat Agree

2=Somewhat Disagree 4=Strongly Agree

Blank=Don't Know or Not Applicable

Please **respond** to the following about stewardship.

1 2 3 4 NR

4 13 49 34 25 36. I would volunteer more if I knew parish needs

15 27 40 18 18 37. I am aware of how the parish spends its money

28 32 28 13 61 38. Skip if you already do so: I am interested in the option of giving to the parish every month with an electronic fund transfer

Please **respond** to the following about parish worship.

1 2 3 4 NR

3 9 32 56 14 39. Options for virtual Mass (weekdays and Sunday solemn) should continue

20 26 32 22 24 40. Family Mass should periodically join Solemn Mass in the upstairs church

3 5 43 50 46 41. I agree with the Mission Statement the parish adopted in 2019

1 10 47 43 32 42. There should be more opportunities for Masses for teens

43. How would you prefer that we bring our Covid-19 experience closer to God? **Select all that apply.**

49 1. Mass of Thanksgiving and Remembrance

26 2. Morning of Recollection and Discernment

11 3. Morning of Service to those most affected

13 4. Working with a parish in an area most ravaged by Covid-19

1 5. Other: _____.

NR=19

44. Catholic social teaching requires that we engage in both *charity* and *justice*. Which of the following is your top priority for parish social justice efforts?

A. *Charity*

NR=13

Please select one in this category.

38 1. Supporting organizations that provide direct service to those in need

39 2. Supporting organizations that empower those in need with skills necessary for employment and a stable life

23 3. Partnering with a parish in an economically disadvantaged area

B. *Justice*

NR=18

Please select one in this category.

46 1. Working with organizations that advocate on issues aligned with Catholic social teaching

26 2. Offering instruction on Catholic social teaching and its implications for public policy issues

28 3. Collaborating with other parishes on issues of public policy aligned with Catholic social teaching

45. *Excluding your Mass attendance*, how many *ministries or activities* are you involved with at this parish?

55 1. None

17 3. Two to four

27 2. One

1 4. Five or more NR=14

AVG NR

1961 16 46. Year you were born: _____ (4-digit year)

47. Gender: _____ NR=15

32 Male 68 Female

48. What *best* describes your current marital status?

_____ NR=16

27 Single 1 Engaged 3 Unmarried but in a relationship

56 Married <1 Separated 5 Divorced 7 Widowed

<1 Other

49. *Number of your children or stepchildren living with you who are: Leave blank if none or not applicable.*

SUM SUM

201 A. Ages 12 or younger 117 C. Ages 18 or older

104 B. Ages 13 to 17

Blank=70%

50. Please feel encouraged to share any views that could help guide our Planning process that were not captured here. We are interested in your priorities for the parish and any creative ideas you might have to help the parish better meet your and our community's needs. NR=62

Thank you for completing this survey!

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