

*Our Mother Of Sorrows
Parish
Pastoral Plan
2006-2010*



***GO, YOU ARE SENT
FORTH***

- to witness with love*
- to learn & grow*
- to worship & welcome*
- to seek & embrace*
- to reach out to the least*
- to lead & form*

Our Mother of Sorrows Parish
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**PARISH
MISSION STATEMENT**

Rooted in the spiritual tradition of the Catholic faith and called to be disciples of Jesus Christ, we the people of Our Mother of Sorrows Parish are sent forth to proclaim the Good News of God's love for all people.

A dynamic faith community, we are sent forth to grow in our faith and to share our faith and love with one another.

We encourage one another in prayer, in worship, in continuing to learn and to live daily the meaning of the Christian life.

As disciples of Jesus we are called and sent forth to love and to care for one another. As a parish we accept our call to reach out to all God's people, especially to those in need, so that the reign of God may be realized in our community, in our nation and in our world.

Pastor's Message

Dear Parishioners . . . Disciples of Jesus Christ,

The Parish Mission Statement embodies our vision and Mission as a parish, as a community of disciples of Jesus Christ. The acronym **M.C.S.** (Message, Community, Service) offers another perspective on our vision and purpose. Our call as a parish is to proclaim the Message of Jesus Christ, which forms us into a unique Community of disciples and sends us forth on mission and loving Service.

The Pastoral Plan outlined in this brochure under the theme *Go, you are sent forth* puts legs on our Parish Mission Statement and on our acronym M.C.S. May the implementation of this plan in all levels of our parish bond us together more deeply in Jesus Christ who continues to serve in and through us and sends us forth in his name.

Your fellow disciple and pastor,
Msgr. Tom Cahalane

About the Pastoral Plan

The inspiration underlying our new Pastoral Plan is based on the words spoken originally in Latin at the end of every Mass:

"Ite, Missa est"

which are commonly taken to mean . . .

"Go, you are sent forth."

"Holy Mass (Missa), the liturgy in which the mystery of salvation is accomplished, concludes with the **sending forth** (missio) of the faithful, **so that they may fulfill God's will in their daily lives.**"

Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1332

These words of inspiration take particular meaning in our call, commitment, and vocation as lay people "sent forth into the world" to embrace the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching:

*Sacredness of life and dignity
of the human person*

*Call to family, community, and
participation in society, seeking
together the common good*

*Human rights and the
responsibility to protect them*

*Preferential option for the
poor and vulnerable*

*The dignity of work and
the rights of workers*

*Solidarity with all people
as one global family*

*Stewardship and care
for God's creation*

To Witness with Love

We envision our parish as actively engaged in the Ministry of Everyday Life whereby we weave together a consistent ethic of life and seek the common good in the spiritual, moral and social issues that we encounter in the home, neighborhood, workplace and world.

- As part of our mission and ministry, we recognize that we are connected in solidarity, not only to those in our parish, but also to the community, state and world at large.
- As part of that connection we will demonstrate a social responsibility for the welfare and well being of our less fortunate brothers and sisters.
- We do so primarily through the Ministry of Everyday Life; that is the witness we give by our actions in the home, school, workplace and marketplace.
- As we strive through prayer, study and efforts to achieve social change, our actions will reflect clearly our faith and our commitment to the social teachings of the Church.

To Learn & Grow

We envision life-long learning and growth in our faith through Christian education formation that is rooted in Scripture, the Sacraments, and in a rich prayer life, and which fosters an awareness of our common vocation to evangelize the world through the Ministry of Everyday Life.

- We will foster an awareness that faith formation occurs within the liturgy, within our school & religious education programs, and through various other means of study.
- We will nurture our faith through constant attentiveness to prayer.
- Small faith formation groups will continue to break open the Scripture for study and reflection.
- Multiple opportunities for study and reflection on selected portions of Scripture will be offered.
- The Retreat Program will offer special opportunities for prayer, reflection and renewal based on Scripture and other devotional sources.
- A major source of ongoing faith formation will continue to occur at all liturgies through inspiring, challenging, and thought-provoking homilies.

To Worship & Welcome

We envision a reverent and welcoming Eucharistic community, aware of its role as a priestly people in relationship with God and with one another, and actively involved in liturgical and sacramental celebrations as Ministers of the Assembly.

- Emphasis will be maintained on a spirit of welcome and hospitality to all who participate in the liturgy or associated activities. This welcoming extends to greetings before and after the liturgy, the ongoing activities of the Welcoming Committee and a parish-wide acceptance of all who join us in worship.
- All liturgical ministers will be afforded opportunities through formation, workshops and other venues to deepen their understanding and participation in the roles they have accepted.
- All parishioners and visitors will experience periodic catechesis on elements of the liturgy to assure more meaningful participation as Ministers of the Assembly.

To Seek & Embrace

We envision our parish as an authentic welcoming community: a place where the overlooked and the stranger are invited, embraced, and accepted as children of God, and where individuals and families can grow together through love, understanding, prayer, hospitality, and festivity.

- In recognition of the reality that our lives are connected in many ways, the family of Our Mother of Sorrows places great emphasis on being a welcoming community whose members embrace diversity and reach out to all who come to us.
- A special concern is directed towards those who may feel overlooked by the mainstream church.
- Through both modern and traditional means of communication Our Mother of Sorrows will evidence an openness and transparency to all.
- As “welcoming is part of our everyday spirituality,” we desire to be in relationship with God and with all our brothers and sisters to whom we can reach out.
- All parish programs will be encouraged to identify those not traditionally a part of the group and seek to welcome them.

To Reach Out to the Least

We envision a parish in which the Gospel message of love and care for the least and the littlest is transformed into the everyday lives of our parish community and that our responsibility toward the poor and vulnerable is realized through our outreach and generosity of heart.

- Our Mother of Sorrows will continue our very strong emphasis on outreach, especially to the “least and littlest.” Catholic Social Teaching mandates this concern and it has been an ongoing element of OMOS parish life.
- Leadership formation and development will provide for continuation and growth in these programs.
- Regular reporting to the parish on the work of these ministries will assure continued support from the community at large.
- All participants will receive ongoing catechesis on the need to see the face of Christ in all who are served.

To Lead & Form

We envision a strong and collaborative parish leadership which grows through ministry formation, education, prayer, passion, love, and example and includes all those who lead lives of faith, integrity, and Gospel values in the world.

- Our Mother of Sorrows will continue to mentor and provide spiritual formation for present and future lay leaders through workshops and retreats throughout the year.
- Our lay people will be inspired and formed as “co-workers in the vineyard” through the study of Church documents.
- A process will be developed to identify future leadership in all areas of ministry to assure continued effective programs.
- An emphasis on youth formation will continue and be invigorated through collaboration with OMOS School and religious education programs.
- Ongoing formation of future leaders will be emphasized in parish teen and young adult ministry programs.