

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

PASTORAL PLAN

May 31, 2007

PART 1

ABOUT CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

Introduction

Corpus Christi Parish is a vibrant multicultural community located at the corner of Nanaimo Street and 48th Avenue in Southeast Vancouver. The parish has a long history of hard working and dedicated priests and committed parishioners.

Throughout the years, the parish has welcomed Catholic immigrants from around the world. Catholic parishes are often the first place of welcome for Catholic immigrants who have a profound trust in their church which ministers to their needs and becomes a security in a new world. The different cultures are often expressed in many aspects of parish life.

Members and Activities

The Corpus Christi parish community includes 1900 registered families, 55% of which use the envelopes, along with visitors and non-members who attend the church liturgies. Parishioners are generous and are often quick to respond positively to the material needs of the church.

The parish includes an elementary school that is recognized for its academic achievements. With 240 students from Kindergarten to Grade 7, Corpus Christi School plays an important role in providing good Catholic education in the community. The school parents are required to complete a pre-determined number of volunteer participation hours that can be completed either through school or church activities.

While there is a decline in the number of weddings and confirmations performed in 2006 compared to the year before, the number of funerals and baptisms performed in the parish increased. The parish continues to provide for the Catholic formation of children, teens, young adults and adults through the PREP and RCIA, bible study and other parish programs.

The parish is blessed with dedicated priests, sisters and lay helpers who provide leadership in the various ministries and tend to the many outreach activities and other service needs of the church and its people.

The parish has many active cultural groups that are committed to welcoming and supporting the pastoral and social needs of their members. Along with all parishioners, they provide fundraising support to the church.

Many active parish organizations, committees and some very special individuals provide considerable assistance and support to parish activities, programs and day to day operation.

Parish Groups

1. Liturgical Groups
 - a. Lectors
 - b. Altar Servers
 - c. Choir
 - d. Ushers
 - e. Children's Liturgy
 - f. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
 - g. Sacramental Outreach

2. Educational Groups
 - a. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults [RCIA] English & Chinese
 - b. Parish Religious Education Program [PREP]
 - c. Bible Study
 - d. Marriage Preparation Course
 - e. Baptismal Preparation Course

3. Service Groups
 - a. School Children's Outreach activities
 - b. Seniors' Outreach
 - c. Dedicated Priests, Sisters & Lay Helpers
 - i. Pastor & Assistant Pastor
 - ii. Missionaries of Charity
 - iii. Lay Helpers & Parish Support
 - Visiting the Sick
 - Collection
 - Church Cleaning
 - Flowers/ongoing church decoration
 - Altar Linens

4. Chinese Pastoral Group
 - a. Chinese Mass
 - b. Family Rosary
 - c. Pray for the Sick Prayer Group
 - d. Ladies' Circle
 - e. Reception Group
 - f. RCIA

5. Parish Groups including Cultural Groups
 - a. Altar Servers Society
 - b. Knights of Columbus
 - c. Pro-Life Cell
 - d. Legion of Mary
 - e. Youth Group
 - f. Young Adult Community
 - g. Amici over 60 - Italian Community
 - h. Filipino Community
 - i. Chinese Community

6. Committees and Individuals in Support of the Priests and the Parish Operation
 - a. Finance Committee
 - b. Pastoral Council
 - c. Eucharistic Adoration Chapel Coordinator
 - d. Project Advance Coordinator and volunteers
 - e. Office Secretary
 - f. School Parents & Parishioners

Parish Pastoral Planning Process

The Archdiocesan Synod produced 50 propositions that called to all parishes to be true centres of holiness and union.

Responding to the call of Archbishop Raymond Roussin for parishes to act on the Synod recommendations, Corpus Christi Parish, under the leadership of Fr. Michael Conaghan and the support of Fr. Anthony Ho established the Parish Pastoral Planning Committee. The committee started meeting in November 2006. Additional members were added in January 2007. The group met every two weeks and through prayers, deliberations and consensus came up with the attached pastoral plan for Corpus Christi Parish.

Strengths & Challenges

As a necessary step throughout the planning process, the committee brainstormed and identified the strengths and challenges of the parish. The strengths lie in what the parish is and what it has been doing to date to lead and involve the culturally diverse parishioners.

With the strengths also lie some challenges that when examined and acted upon can only enhance parish life.

Corpus Christi Parish has many challenges. While some of the challenges may be set aside and revisited at a later date, there are some that require immediate attention.

A major challenge for the Catholic Church in general is the number of Catholics who have a serious gap in their faith-based knowledge. This lack of deeper understanding of their faith is, for many Catholics, a barrier to true discipleship. Many Catholics are making decisions about theological or faith-based issues in an unsophisticated and perhaps worldly manner that may not always be in line with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Corpus Christi has done an excellent job throughout the years in providing spiritual instructions to many individuals of all ages. Spiritual formation is an ongoing process. A strong prayer ministry gives expression to the faith of the community and enhances the growth in the parishioners' relationship with God.

Corpus Christi has many dedicated volunteers, but the parish can still use many trained catechists, as well as trained resources for programs such as Natural Family Planning.

Other challenges include:

- getting more parishioners of all ages to become more actively involved in church activities
- engaging young people in the parish to take leadership role or participate in parish activities
- strengthening social and spiritual programs for pre-teens, teens and young adults including high school catechesis, youth choir, etc.
- strengthening and enhancing the adult Christian formation sessions to train more catechists
- finding adequate meeting room or social events space for the different groups in the parish
- reaching out to our non-Catholic brothers and sisters and effectively using the parish website to communicate and educate not only the Catholics but the bigger community on Christian values and formation

Community is an essential component of parish life. The sense of belonging in the parish community draws parishioners together in mutual support, celebration and growth. While the various cultural groups generally do an excellent job in supporting its own community within the parish, they are seldom challenged to work together as one Catholic community.

PART 2

CORPUS CHRISTI PASTORAL PLAN

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH PASTORAL PLAN

Mission Statement:

We bring people to Christ through word, sacraments and charity.

We, the Corpus Christi parish, are a diverse community striving to proclaim the good news by the proclamation of the word and the celebration of the sacraments.

We are a faith community of families, united among ourselves and respectful of other cultures, races, beliefs and all others who bear witness to the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

As Catholic Christians, we strive to be faithful to building the Body of Christ and to witness to all as we journey toward a deeper understanding of the Christian life.

Priorities for Corpus Christi Parish

WORD

At Corpus Christi Parish, the Word of God is proclaimed daily during the celebration of the liturgies. Catechumens who undergo the Rites of Christian Initiation [RCIA] receive formal instructions from priests and catechists during the scholastic year either in English or in Chinese. Our young people receive faith formation and are prepared for the sacraments by Corpus Christi School and by the Parish Religious Education Program [PREP]. Many of our young people who graduated from Corpus Christi School continue to receive faith formation at Notre Dame and other Catholic high schools and colleges.

Goal: To share our faith through evangelization

Objective #1:

Form educated Catholics and competent catechists.

Activities:

- Catechists training classes June 2007
[Fr. Anthony Ho]
- Christian formation sessions
 - Introductory Course [C.Vendencia] April – June 07
 - RCIA [Fr. A.Ho & Fr. M.Conaghan] Aug 07 – April 08
 - PREP [Tony/Rufina Chan] Sept 07 – June 08

Measure: Regularity of sessions, number of attendees

Evaluation: after each cycle

- Bible Study:
 - Evening English Bible Group Sept 07
[Fr. Anthony Ho] [2nd & 4th Thursday]
 - Tuesday Morning Bible Group Oct 07 – March 08
[Jean Work]

Measure: Regularity of sessions, number of attendees, feedback from attendees

Evaluation: after each cycle

- Chinese Group every first & third

Sunday of each month

May 07 - ongoing

[Fr. Anthony Ho]

Measure: Regularity of sessions, number of attendees, feedback from attendees

Evaluation: after each cycle

Objective # 2:

Develop and sustain the faith of the parishioners especially the young.

Activities:

- Saints discussion group [Fr. A.Ho/S.Chan] Feb 07 [monthly-
last Saturday]
- High school catechesis [Fr.Ho/Peter Lo] Sept 07 – June 08
- Altar Servers Spiritual & Social Activities Ongoing
[Lawrence Lo/Adam Quan]

Measure: Regularity of sessions, number of attendees, feedback from attendees

Evaluation: at completion of each cycle

- Gospel Evangelization Concert [Demi A.] May 6/07 [once]
- Role of the Laity in the Church Conference [Demi A.] April 26/07 [once]

Measure: number of attendees, feedback from attendees

Evaluation: after the event

Objective # 3:

Develop a marriage enrichment program

- Christian Spirituality Classes:
 - Prospective brides & grooms Nov 07, Jan, Feb. May 08
[See Sac. #3] [4 sessions – once a month]
[Fr. M. Conaghan/Fr. A. Ho]
 - Christian Parenting
& Baptismal
Preparation Program Sept 07
[Vince Hui & Jackson Fong]

Measure: Regularity of sessions, number of attendees, feedback from attendees

Evaluation: at completion of each cycle

- NFP – contact Family Services [Fr. A. Ho] 2008

Objective #4:

Share and teach the Catholic faith with others.

- Catholic Open House Spring 08
[Dinner and instructions – open to non-Catholics]
[Fr. Anthony Ho / A. Gill]

SACRAMENTS

The Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life. It is at the heart of the Corpus Christi Parish community. All parish activities ought to lead us to Jesus, present in the Holy Eucharist. Corpus Christi parishioners adore Jesus night and day at the Emmaus Adoration Chapel. We also gather daily in the

church to celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours [Office of the Readings, Lauds] and Vespers on the Lord's Day.

Goal: To enkindle a desire for holiness among the parishioners

Objective #1:

Increase participation in weekday and Sunday masses

- Preaching at Holy Masses about Eucharistic adoration, & importance of Sunday masses
[Fr. Michael Conaghan/Fr. Anthony Ho] Triduum & Feast of CC
- Triduum – Prep to the Feast of Corpus Christi
[Fr. Michael Conaghan & Fr. Anthony Ho] June 7-9, 07

Objective #2:

Increase participation in Eucharistic Adoration especially the Holy Hour on Fridays

- Distribution of devotional booklets [Lucy Pinto] ongoing
- Group adoration through the leadership of the various parish organizations ongoing
- Eucharistic procession every Feast of Corpus Christi June 07

Objective #3:

Provide instruction in sacramental spirituality

- Marriage preparation course as needed
[See Word #3] [4 sessions]
 - i. English
 - ii. Chinese

[Fr. Anthony Ho/Fr. Michael Conaghan]

- Retreats
 - i. 2 Sessions - Advent Dec 07
 - 1. Chinese
 - 2. English
 - ii. 2 Sessions - Lent May 07
 - 1. Chinese
 - 2. English
- iii. Seniors' Retreat Aug/Sept 07
[Fr. Michael Conaghan/Felix Saldanha]

Measure: Regularity, number of attendees, feedback from attendees
Evaluation: at completion of each session

- First Communion and Confirmation preparation classes
[See Word 1 Adult Formation Sessions – RCIA & PREP]

CHARITY

Corpus Christi Parish has been blessed with the presence of the Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity. The Sisters are powerful witnesses of the Church's charity for the poor. Our parish community includes people from different cultural backgrounds. There is a strong Chinese community in the parish and Holy Mass is celebrated in Cantonese every Sunday afternoon. Holy Mass in Pilipino [Tagalog] is also celebrated several times during the year including the nine days before Christmas [Simbang Gabi]. Different groups have been established to meet the needs of the parish. The more notable groups are: Choirs, Altar Servers

Society, the Knights of Columbus, Legion of Mary and the Amici over 60. The Couples for Christ and the Youth for Christ also hold activities in the parish.

Goal: To encourage greater involvement of the parishioners in parish life.

Objective #1:

Introduce parishioners to the active parish groups

- Parish Ministry Fair October 08
[Sheila Gill / Lucy Pinto]

Measure: Number of attendees, feedback

- Hospitality at Corpus Christi once a month
 - Tea/Coffee after Masses
[Lawrence & the Altar Servers Society]
 - Church Greeters all Sunday Masses
[Dick Arce]

Measure: Regularity, number of attendees, feedback

- Seniors' Christmas Luncheon yearly
[Felix Saldanha]

Measure: number of attendees, feedback

Objective #2:

Increase young people's involvement in parish activities

- Summer camp
 - Catholic Kids' Camp July 19-13 /07
 - Children's Day Camp July 16-20 /07
 - Youth Camp – overnight August 07

[Sr. Maria Concepcion & MCs]

- Youth Group September 08
- Youth Choir in progress

[Fr. Anthony Ho / Peter Lo]

Objective #3:

Revive or establish new groups and initiate new activities to meet the needs of all Parishioners

- Identify all parish groups that are operating within the parish, i.e. the various circles, etc. in progress
[Fr. Michael Conaghan / A. Gill]

PART 3

PASTORAL PLAN TIMELINES

**Corpus Christi Pastoral Plan
Timelines**

Goal/Obj.	January 07	February 07	March 07	April 07	May 07	June 07	July 07	August 07	September 07	October 07	November 07	December 07
<i>Word #1</i>				<i>Adult Christian Formation Sessions</i>								
				<i>Introductory Course 3 month cycle: April to June</i>								
								<i>RCIA – August 07 to April 08 [yearly]</i>				
									<i>PREP – September 07 to June 08 [yearly]</i>			
				<i>Special Sunday classes – ongoing, as needed</i>								
<i>Word #1</i>				<i>Catechist Training Classes – June to August</i>								
<i>Word #1</i>				<i>English Bible Study</i>								
										<i>Bible Study Tues AM Group [October to March]</i>		
				<i>Chinese Bible Study Group – First & Third Sunday - ongoing</i>								
<i>Word #2</i>		<i>Saints Discussion Group - monthly session every last Saturday of the month</i>										
<i>Word #2</i>											<i>High school catechesis [Sept to June]</i>	
<i>Word #2</i>				<i>Role of the Laity Workshop - Once</i>								
<i>Word #2</i>				<i>Gospel Evangelization Concert – Once</i>								
<i>Word #2</i>										<i>Christian Spirituality classes For prospective brides & Grooms [Nov 07 to May 08]</i>		
<i>Word #3</i>										<i>Christian Parenting / Baptismal Prep. Program</i>		
Sac #1				Eucharistic procession – Feast of CC [yearly]								
Sac #1				preaching at Holy Masses about (1) Eucharistic Adoration and (2) importance of Sunday Masses [for 4 Sundays when masses deal with the Eucharist – timing to be determined]								
Sac #2				Distribution of devotional booklets – available at the church entrance – ongoing								
Sac #2				Group adoration through the leadership of various parish groups – ongoing [see schedule]								
Sac #3				Triduum – Prep Feast of Corpus Christi								
Sac #3		Marriage Prep Course – 4 sessions both in English and in Chinese - ongoing as needed										

Word #1

Adult Christian Formation Sessions

RCIA - August 07 to April 08 [yearly]

PREP - September 07 to June 08 [yearly]

Special Sunday classes for teens - ongoing, as needed

Word #1

Bible Study Tuesday AM Group [October to March]

English Bible Study Group

Chinese Bible Study Group - First & Third Sunday - ongoing

Word #2

High school catechesis [Sept to June]

Word #2

Saints Discussion Group - monthly session every last Saturday of the month throughout the year

Word #2

Christian Spirituality Classes for Pros brides & grooms Jan, Feb. May 08]

Word #3

Christian parenting course and baptismal prep classes

Word #4

Catholic Open House

Sac #2

Group adoration through leadership of various parish groups – per schedule - ongoing

Sac #3

Retreats

**Lent: English
 Chinese**

**Advent: Chinese
 English**

Char #1

Parish Ministry Fair

Char #1

Hospitality at Corpus Christi – ongoing

Char #1

**Seniors’
Christmas Luncheon**