

Parish Self-Assessment Report We Walk By Faith

St. Pius X
7800 Halprin Drive
Norfolk, VA 23518
[Parish contact person]

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I. Introduction

[Please give characteristics of your parish: its demographics, its mission statement (if there is one), its history, etc.]

St. Pius X is a well-established parish of over 1156 registered families with nearly 2,787 members comprised of 1185 women, 907 men, and 695 children. The current demographic profile of registered parishioners is:

Children less than 13	467
Youth 13 – 17	225
Young adults 18 – 30	379
Adults 31 – 59	986
Senior adults 60+	698

Caucasian:	1,488
Asian	941
African American	69
Hispanic	140
Other	149

St. Pius X History:

On July 8, 1955, the Most Reverend Peter J. Ireton, Bishop of Richmond established St. Pius X Parish, and The Very Reverend Thomas O'Keefe, S.T., Superior General of The Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity, accepted the Parish on behalf of the Congregation. The Trinitarians led our parish for almost 30 years, at which time Reverend Ronald A. Ruth, the first diocesan priest, was assigned in 1982. Since that time there have been five pastors leading up to our current pastor, Reverend Venancio R. Balarote, Jr., our first Filipino pastor. We have maintained an elementary school that dates back to 1956, under the initial guidance and leadership of the Trinitarian Sisters. In 1958, the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary accepted all teaching responsibilities for St. Pius X School. Our current church was completed and dedicated in 1970. In recent years, renovations to the school, church building improvements, and construction of a state-of-the-art gymnasium are clear indicators of our vibrant and growing community.

Parish Mission Statement:

We, the community of St. Pius X Church, having been baptized in Jesus Christ, nurtured in community, nourished by prayer, word and sacrament are empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the reign of God.

- Grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we
- Make Liturgy the focus of parish life, recognizing that communal celebration through the word, prayer and the sharing of Eucharist unites, nourishes, and sends us forth to serve.
- Encourage a welcoming, hospitable community.
- Seek Christian education and formation on all levels for all ages and promote our parish school as an instrument of religious, moral, and educational training.
- Commit to active service to God's people and the transformation of hearts to create compassion, healing, justice and peace for all people.

II. Word

Strengths (Please list some of the strengths of the parish concerning Christian formation [children, youth, and adult] and the presentation of the teachings of the Church)

Strengths:

- 1) Religious education programs – RCIA, Catholics Returning Home
- 2) Strong religious emphasis on the Word through various Bible studies and prayer groups that meet on a regular basis that is available for all parishioners.

Needs (Please indicate areas under the category of Word that need strengthening)

- more adult education and an understanding of truths

How needs have been addressed:

- More adult faith formation has been added- US Adult Catholic Catechism classes once a week, book sharing on 'My Life with the Saints' by Father James Martin, SJ, two groups meeting once a week

III. Worship

Strengths (Please list some of the strengths of the parish concerning Worship and the celebration of the Sacraments)

- Attentive, welcoming Clergy and Religious, very involved in parish activities and the needs of all parishioners
- Beliefs and traditions
- Devotion of a core group of parishioners
- Daily Mass, Rosary and Nocturnal Adoration
- Active participation in Liturgy by many parishioners

Needs (Please indicate areas under the category of Worship that need strengthening)

- physical repairs to buildings
- better sound system
- training of cantors and lectors to properly use the sound system
- ushers can be a distraction
- continued training of altar servers

How needs have been addressed:

- Church roof has been repaired
- New heating system in Church- changed from oil to gas
- Sound system has been maintenance and reset
- New Parish Music director has been hired- music selection has been improved, choir is back and singing, congregation participates in singing more
- Altar servers have improved and are better organized

IV. Community

Strengths (Please list some of the strengths of the parish concerning community and fellowship)

- Strong faith-based and welcoming parish community
- Very active parish organizations; Men's and Women's clubs, and Fil-Am organization that all provide financial support and time and talent in support of the parish community.
- Strong recognition of the ethnic diversity and sharing of cultural traditions within the parish community.
- Family oriented parish activities
- Parish school that provides a solid Catholic education
- Parish school with a strong academic program
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Needs (Please indicate areas under the category of Community that need strengthening)

- more emphasis on welcoming new parishioners
- effective youth ministry
- interfaith programs
- more young adult activities

How needs have been addressed:

- New parishioners are mentioned by name in bulletin
- Youth Minister hired and group was started- about 30 kids from 8th to 12th grade
- Parish Assembly discusses and shares about stewardship, We Walk By Faith, and strategic planning for St. Pius X

V. Service

Strengths (Please list some of the strengths of the parish concerning Service to others)

- Myriad of programs to support the larger community including: Habitat for Humanity, NEST, soup and sandwich ministry, holiday baskets, the giving tree, Operation Rice Bowl, and food pantry.
- Parishioners helping one another with transportation needs and home repairs.
- Strong and vibrant pastoral care ministry supporting the sick and homebound.
- Support for grieving family members through bereavement and reception ministries
- Nursing home Masses or Communion Services once a month

Needs (Please indicate areas under the category of Service that need strengthening)

- Broaden parish awareness of global issues.
- More youth participation and an increase in participation from the entire parish community.
- Create a teen and retiree support ministry for our homebound and elderly.
- Find ways to encourage more volunteers for all parish ministries.
- Need more emphasis on vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

How needs have been addressed:

- Youth minister is looking into youth group helping elderly in parish with yard work, etc.
- Stewardship Fair is being restructured- looking at how to attract volunteers
- Religious Vocations are prayed for at every weekend Liturgy

VI. Plans for renewal and meeting parish needs

For the next year (Please indicate what specific plans the parish has in addressing its more immediate needs / areas that need strengthening)

- We are in the process of drawing up the St. Pius X Vision Statement
- There is a liturgical workshop in the planning stage for the Norfolk parishes for all Lectors, Cantors and Ministers of the Eucharist here at St. Pius X in October. This is sponsored by the IHM Sisters of St. Pius X. This will help in the training for these ministries.
- There is a Healing Mass every first Thursday of the Month for the sick who would like to be anointed. This just started three months ago and is working out fine.

For the next five years (Please indicate what plans the parish has in addressing its needs / areas that need strengthening in the next five years)

Please see Strategic Plan following this self-evaluation.

VII. Diocesan Support

What diocesan support does the parish need to meet its stated needs.

- As we have mentioned and stated in the last Parish Self Assessment on June 15, 2007, the items reflected in #1-4 have not been implemented yet.
- The Parish Increase Giving Program has not given satisfactory information to the Parish Level.

VIII. Conclusion

Activities and events have been improving gradually at St. Pius X Parish Community, both spiritually and materially. In the past several months we have experienced a growth in membership and number who come to worship. We organized a Parish Assembly last September to continue focusing on 'We Walk by Faith' document.

The Healing Mass brings renewal to our parish and the people can stay for Nocturnal Adoration afterwards.

Last November we launched the Parish Increase Giving Program. We are looking to still improve the structural maintenance of both parish and school buildings as well as our Liturgical Celebrations.

Saint Pius X Church Strategic Plan 2008-2009

St. Pius X Mission Statement:

We, the community of St. Pius X Church, having been baptized in Jesus Christ, nurtured in the community, nourished by prayer, word and sacrament are empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the reign of God.

St. Pius X Vision Statement:

St. Pius X Church is a proactive community rooted in “We Walk by Faith,” rejoicing in Christ and empowered to serve. Thus, living daily to know Christ, to grow in Christ, and share Christ’s love.

St. Pius X Guiding Principles:

Grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we seek:

- To make Liturgy the focus of parish life, recognizing that communal celebration through the word, prayer and the sharing of the Eucharist unites, nourishes, and sends us forth to serve.
- To encourage a welcoming, hospitable community.
- To seek Christian education and formation on all levels for all ages and promote our parish school as an instrument of religious, moral, and academic training.
- To commit to active service to God’s people and the transformation of heart to create compassion, healing, justice and peace for all people.
- To embrace the diversity of all of God’s people and encourage them to develop a personal relationship with Jesus.
- To offer spiritual, economic, and emotional support to the poor and others in need by sharing our gift of time, talents and treasure.

Strategic Goal 1: Word – Share the news that St. Pius X Church welcomes all and encourages them to share the Gospel, grow closer to God, and to serve.

Objective 1.A: Continue to strengthen religious education programs such as RCIA and Catholics Returning Home.

Objective 1.B: Strongly emphasis the Word through a variety of media including Bible Studies, prayer groups, parish organizations, Saint Pius X School, and the Church website.

Objective 1.C: Increase opportunities for adult religious education on doctrine and the catechesis.

Strategic Goal 2: Worship – Celebrate the Eucharist and God’s presence among us.

Objective 2.A: Continue the involvement of our Clergy and Religious Life in all the activities of our parish and school family.

Objective 2.B: Continue to offer and expand opportunities to celebrate in the forms of daily Mass, Rosary, Healing Masses, and Nocturnal Adoration.

Objective 2.C: Enhance the experience for those receiving Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation, Marriage, and Christian Burial through educational opportunities.

Objective 2.D: Joyfully celebrate God’s presence among us through increased participation and training of choir, altar servers, cantors, lecturers, and musicians.

Objective 2.E: Increase involvement of parishioners during the mass and church reverence before and after the mass.

Strategic Goal 3: Share - Spread the Gospel.

Objective 3.A: Promote an awareness with parishioners for the need to share the Good News of the Lord with others.

Objective 3.B: Educate parishioners in effective evangelization methods and opportunities they may have to use them.

Objective 3.C: Expand established ministries to share the Good News.

Objective 3.D: Develop methods to reconnect with inactive Catholics.

Strategic Goal 4: Community – Welcome all to receive God’s Love.

Objective 4.A: Continue to encourage and support our parish organizations; including the Men’s, Women’s, and Fil-Am Clubs.

Objective 4.B: Expand the Youth Club and Youth Ministries including visible and meaningful roles for youth in the parish and school.

Objective 4.C: Celebrate ethnic diversity and expand opportunities to share cultural traditions and knowledge.

Objective 4.D: Foster interaction and communication between groups.

Objective 4.E: Continue to support St. Pius X School to ensure the academic, spiritual, and social development of the students.

Objective 4.F: Develop relationships with other local schools, community organizations, the military, government officials, and local businesses.

Objective 4.G: Expand interfaith programs throughout the year.

Strategic Goal 5: Service – Nurture a passion for service.

Objective 5.A: Continue to expand, encourage and facilitate participation in community service programs including Habitat for Humanity, NEST, soup and sandwich ministry, etc.

Objective 5.B: Continue to offer a strong and vibrant pastoral care ministry supporting the sick and homebound including masses at Nursing homes.

Objective 5.C: Continue to offer and expand bereavement and reception ministries for grieving family members.

Objective 5.D: Broaden parish awareness of global issues.

Objective 5.E: Develop a program for youth to expose them to the intrinsic rewards value of a vocation to the priesthood and/or religious life.

Objective 5.F: Encourage and facilitate the involvement of confirmed youth to take on leadership roles within the parish.

Strategic Goal 6: Finances – Generate the financial support needed to fulfill our mission.

Objective 6.A: Operate the church and school within a balanced budget.

Objective 6.B: Continue to maintain an active and knowledgeable Church Finance Council that meets regularly.

Objective 6.C: Regularly inform the parish and school community of financial status and issues facing the parish and school.

Objective 6.D: Increase weekly offertory participation by 20% by 2010.

Objective 6.F: Establish a Church Development Committee to coordinate and enhance fundraising events, appeals, capital campaigns, and planned giving.

Strategic Goal 7: Facilities – Keep our buildings maintained, accessible, and eco-friendly.

Objective 7.A: Develop a five- and ten-year plan to ensure facilities meet the needs of the church.

Objective 7.B: Incorporate “green” measures wherever possible.

Objective 7.C: Continue to ensure handicap access.

Objective 7.D: Develop and implement a preventive maintenance program for all parish and school buildings and systems.