

**Pastoral Plan for the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
Palm Coast, Florida**

I. Overview

The Parish Pastoral Council plans for the future of the parish. This process is best undertaken by developing a written **Pastoral Plan** for the parish. This Pastoral Plan begins with the mission statement of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, identifies the goals of the parish in light of the mission statement, and provides direction and strategies for achieving these goals in a complete and timely manner.

Parish Mission Statement: We, the Christian Community of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Augustine, commit to our baptismal promises. We believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who set us free to be a worshipping, ministering people. As a loving community of brothers and sisters in Christ, accepting the gospel message, we reach out to one another as we share the good news. Empowered by the Holy Spirit and affirmed by the faithful, we pledge to live our lives in a Christian manner as an example, to our children and others, of values and traditions. As a priestly people, growing in faith together, we wait in joyful hope of God's eternal peace.

In addition, in *"Novo Millennio Inuente,"* Pope John Paul II proclaimed: *"In particular, there is a need to foster greater involvement of the laity through such participatory structures as pastoral councils and parish assemblies. Pastoral planning with the lay faithful should be a normal feature of all parishes. "*

The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Pastoral Council, in keeping with the mission of the Parish and the spirit of the Pope's expressed wishes, is a faith-based (as opposed to a business-oriented) leadership body dedicated to providing oversight and empowerment to the lay members of Parish. The goal of our Pastoral Council is to foster collaboration and consensus among our parish members in pastoral planning and in defining, continuously refining, disseminating, and achieving our parish's spiritual mission.

At least every two years, this pastoral plan will be reviewed, evaluated, revised or even completely rewritten as necessary according to the changing needs and circumstances of the parish. The

Pastoral Plan and its biannual review are to be shared with the Bishop and the parish at large.

II. Goals and Action Plans

GOAL I -- LITURGY AND WORSHIP

To enhance our liturgies and liturgical spaces, increase active participation at Mass and other liturgical events, and foster Catholic devotions.

Action Plan: Educate parishioners on the theology behind the Catholic faith and in particular the liturgy of the mass. Implement an on-going training program for the parishioners.

GOAL II -- CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND EVANGELIZATION

To live and share the Good News through education and evangelization.

Action Plan:

SEAS Catholic School will maintain very high quality and offer students opportunities for intellectual, spiritual and moral growth by providing a superior education that instills Christian values and ensures that any child that wants a Catholic education can get one. Ensure that there is a comprehensive study course in Catholic theology for all grades. Market our school to the rest of the community in Palm Coast. Foster a better relationship with the parish at large.

To ensure the Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) is family friendly, encourages mass participation, instills Christian values along with our Catholic faith traditions and beliefs, and provides at least twenty-eight (28) hours of religious education per year. The goal is to provide quality training for committed Catechists and to comply with Catechist certification programs as stipulated in Diocesan guidelines.

To provide ongoing Adult Catechism designed to deepen faith; to raise conscious, active participation in the sacraments, and worship; and to instill Christian values in parishioners' personal lives.

To help the youth of SEAS and any other interested youth to develop and maintain an active and alive relationship with God; to be part of a caring Catholic community with all of its gifts and responsibilities; to appreciate and love the Catholic faith; and to live out Catholic Christian beliefs in the world today.

GOAL III -- FELLOWSHIP

To enrich our parish family by gathering for social occasions other than liturgical and educational events.

Action Plan:

Encourage fellow parishioners and families to come together through events such as church picnics, weekend BBQs, family talent shows, church cleanup days.

GOAL IV -- STEWARDSHIP OF TIME AND TALENT

To strengthen our parish family with the involvement of more parishioners in various ministries and with the coordinated effort of volunteerism.

Action Plan: Reestablish the stewardship committee. To promote a welcome environment at our parish and invite our parishioners to use their time, talent and treasure to build God's Kingdom.

Reestablish Ministry Fairs to allow ministry leaders to showcase their respective organizations designed to educate and attract new parishioners. Provide more open dialog through Town Hall meetings and other forums in order to identify the myriad talents of our parishioners.

GOAL V -- STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

To foster parish-wide sense of ownership of parish and programs and thus the personal and parochial commitment to fiscal responsibility; to encourage Sacrificial Giving.

Action Plan: The Finance Committee to communicate to the parishioners on the benefits sacrificial giving; the need to take ownership of the parish's finances; and the financial needs of the parish.

GOAL VI -- COMMUNITY INTERACTION AND INVOLVEMENT

To express in works of charity our call to holiness, our call to see Christ in everyone, especially in the marginalized, a call that extends far beyond mere financial support, for it calls the parish to stand for justice and to support the poor.

Action Plan: Communicate to and educate the parishioners and the community on the SEAS community-focused programs including the food bank, parish nursing (including hospital visitation, multiple support groups, health education, blood-pressure screenings, and so forth), respect life and other ministries to ensure the needy are served; and that the community continues to support and serve the SEAS community-based programs.

Outreach Ministry: To continue to respond to financial, emotional and physical needs of our neighbors.

Parish Nursing Ministry: Expand Parish Nursing to include the homebound. Minister to the congregation by promoting health and wellness through programs of advocacy, education and support; praying, being available, assisting individuals in acquiring resources and knowledge; preventative health; learning and practicing healthy lifestyles.

Respect Life Ministry: As a service organization the goal of the Respect Life Ministry is to inform the parish community of current issues which support the sanctity of life - from conception until natural death - as a gift from God. Accordingly, the Respect Life Ministry will continue to provide information and will perform activities to keep parishioners aware of situations that would threaten that life.

GOAL VII -- COMMUNICATION

To promote communication and interaction among our various organizations, councils, committees, boards, ministries, etc., as well as public relations within and outside of the Parish.

Short Term Action Plan: Invite ministry/council/organization leaders to attend Parish Council meetings on an on-going basis to educate and collect information on the various ministries/councils/organizations.

Longer Term Action Plan: Share the Pastoral Plan with the various ministries/councils/organizations within the parish in order to enable these ministries/councils/organizations to remain focused on the goals and action plans of the Parish.

GOAL VIII -- BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

To be attentive to current and future needs of all buildings and grounds. To maintain the buildings and grounds in a cost effective manner. To ensure

the level of maintenance should meet or exceed that of comparable properties.

Action Plan:

Establish and maintain a Maintenance Ministry that attracts and takes advantage of the special talents of the parishioners which will serve both SEAS and St. Stephen's church facilities. Make repairs that are needed immediately; establish a preventative maintenance program; identify future high cost expenditures; and whenever possible accomplish goals by parishioner volunteers to reduce expenditures on outside contractors and to enhance stewardship.

**GOAL IX -- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton AND ST. STEPHENS
RELATIONS**

To prayerfully and prudently seek to discern and plan for the future needs of our church and mission.

Action Plan: Set up weekly morning masses and use the meeting room to gather parishioners for after-mass socialization as a way of building community. If successful, expand the program to SEAS and invite interactivity.

III. Submitted

We, the members of the Pastoral Council of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish respectfully offer this plan to our pastor, Fr. James May, as our Parish Plan for 2009-2010.

Respectfully submitted,

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Pastoral Council Members

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