

# **Sts. Simon & Jude Church**

## **A Franciscan Parish in the Diocese of Orange, CA**



### ***Pastoral Plan***

**2008-2009**

## Foreward

The Sts. Simon & Jude Pastoral Plan for the year beginning July 1, 2008, is described in the following pages.

The plan reflects new goal statements for the community and uses the five dimensions of the life of the church as the framework within which our collective vision is articulated. In prayerful deliberation and discussion, representatives of the community joined parish leadership to consider these dimensions as they are reflected in our parish. We identified the ways in which we individually and collectively lived out the dimensions of koinonia, leiturgia, didache, kerygma, and diakonia.

We determined that our communal understanding and actions under each of the five dimensions of the life of the church are not in balance. Our efforts and actions within koinonia, leiturgia and diakonia seem to be better understood and more dynamic than our activities in kerygma and didache. We concluded that we must strengthen our understanding of kerygma and commitment to didache in order to regain a “balance” in the life of our community. The goals and objectives, along with the activities that will be undertaken to address them, call the community to a deeper understanding and experience of these five dimensions and the vision of church that they unfold for all members of the Body of Christ.

We respond whole-heartedly to the challenge of our Bishop, Tod Brown, and the bishops of the United States in committing ourselves to Lifelong Faith through a 6-year core curriculum developed around the five dimensions of church life. This approach defines a systematic and comprehensive presentation of the Gospel message and Catholic tradition through six major themes: the creed, sacraments, morality, Church Year feasts and seasons, prayer and spirituality, and justice and service. The first year of this curriculum, in which we explore the Creed, is reflected in our plan and will provide an essential foundation for our commitment to the lifelong learning and living of our faith.

We have relied on the work of Maria Harris (*Fashion Me a People*) and James Fowler (*Weaving the New Creation – Stages of Faith and the Public Church*) in articulating how these dimensions of church are manifested in our community. We will continue to study and learn from others as we build our community in the service of Christ’s mission.

The Pastoral Plan outlined in the following pages is meant to be more than a series of goals, objectives, and statements about the work of the faith community of Sts. Simon & Jude. It challenges all of the members of this community to accept the responsibilities that we have to one another, our church, and to the broader communities in which we live and work. It is, hopefully, a description and plan for the people we are becoming.

## **Sts. Simon & Jude Church**

### **Parish Values:**

**Gospel**

**Eucharist**

**Hospitality**

**Stewardship**

### **Parish Mission Statement**

*Based on our shared values, we declare the following  
Mission Statement*

**We are Catholic disciples of Jesus Christ, celebrating  
Eucharist and welcoming and serving all God's people in the  
spirit of our brother Francis of Assisi**

# Koinonia

*Congregations are strange, wonderful, and unique communities. Think about some of the dimensions of their uniqueness: Where else in our age-stage segregated era do you have communities where three or four generations interact across age and stage barriers – with children sponsoring grand-and great-grandparent-aged adults and elders sponsoring children?*

*What other communities are constituted as ecologies of care and ecologies of vocation, where people call forth and confirm each other's gifts and giftedness for the service of God, and support and hold each other accountable in the use of those gifts? James Fowler*

**Goal: As authentic members of the community, we accept the responsibility of our baptism to engage fully in the life of the church.**

**Objective #1: Ensure that all new and current parishioners feel welcomed and invited to participate in the life of the community.**

## Strategies:

### Hospitality Commission

- Produce a “Welcome Book” of parish information for new parishioners by June 2009.

### Stewardship Board

- Collaborate with the Hospitality Commission by offering a Morning of Reflection following the welcoming reception.
- Explore the Diocesan “Called and Gifted” process to determine its use for discernment of gifts.

### Festival Board

- Evaluate and assess safety policies to assure a safe and hospitable environment.

### Finance Council

- Create a sub-committee to assess risk and safety issues for the parish. Prepare the initial report and recommendations by March 1, 2009.

### Catechetical Board

- Sponsor events during the summer (i.e. Summertime Livin’) for the entire parish that foster fun and fellowship.
- Develop effective communication with the parish relating opportunities for lifelong faith formation, fellowship, learning and reflection.

**Objective #2: Increase collaboration among parish volunteers (boards, councils, commissions and their sub-committees, catechists, pastoral and liturgical ministers) to foster a deeper sense of community, to provide mutual support, and to appreciate how each group's efforts move the parish mission forward.**

**Strategies:**

Pastoral Leadership

- Lead efforts within parish leadership groups to integrate and coordinate activities within the community.
- Build upon lay leadership success by inviting, recognizing, training, supporting, and thanking excellence in leadership. Report results by June 1, 2009.

Youth Ministry Board

- Increase collaboration between the Youth Ministry Board and the Youth Leadership Team for the purpose of increasing participation of youth in parish life.
- Monitor and evaluate the current communication system that integrates email announcements, a print/internet newsletter, and a website by May 1, 2009.

Communications Board

- Support the outreach efforts of boards, councils, and commissions by providing training on marketing/outreach techniques, including use of website and multimedia opportunities. Training to be provided by March 2009.

# Leiturgia

*In the course of time, every community normally establishes patterns and rhythms in its ways of being together. When a community is a Christian community, one of the central patterns and rhythms it develops is a communal life of prayer, a characteristic set of forms for addressing the mystery of God.*

Maria Harris

**Goal: We accept responsibility to root ourselves in a life of communal and personal prayer, and to provide a safe and hospitable place to worship.**

**Objective #1: Commence church construction and the renovation project by fall 2008, with a target completion date of spring 2009.**

**Strategies:**

Finance Council

- Review and monitor costs and resource commitments relative to budget and capital campaign goals.

Pastoral Staff

- Establish a pavilion and create a liturgical environment for worship.

Liturgy Planning Team

- Train liturgical ministers, including youth, to function in new liturgical environments (i.e. the pavilion and the renovated church) to maintain the integrity of the liturgy.

Communications Board

- Develop a comprehensive communication plan to keep the community informed of progress regarding the construction project.

**Objective #2: Increase opportunities offered for enriching personal and communal prayer for parishioners.**

**Strategies:**

Catechetical Board

- Evaluate the current WFA program to ascertain the degree of its effectiveness in enriching the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word. Complete the review by spring 2009.

JPIC Commission

- Provide prayer services focused on world peace, Christian unity, social sin, and Faithful Citizenship.

Stewardship Board

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the annual retreat in serving the overall parish. Report findings and recommendations to Pastoral Leadership by January 1, 2009.

**Objective #3: Form and empower lay leaders to support the liturgical ministries within the parish.**

**Strategies:**

Liturgy Planning Team

- Reconstitute the Liturgy Board and define its role by December 1, 2008.

# Didache

*Education in the church is life long. For a people called by the gospel there is no time in our life when that call ends. Our education into it is ongoing and ought to become increasingly richer and more complex as we develop through adulthood.*

Maria Harris

**Goal: We accept our lifelong responsibility to learn and teach our faith.**

**Objective #1: Develop an understanding of faith as a lifelong process through the implementation of a comprehensive, systematic exploration of our Catholic faith and practice.**

## Strategies:

### Catechetical Board

- Implement “The Year of the Creed,” the first year of a six-year core curriculum.
- Collaborate with other parish boards, councils, commissions and parish groups by supporting and integrating their education goals with Lifelong Faith gatherings.
- Provide training and formation for group facilitators to serve various ministries (i.e. Morning of Reflection, Lifelong Faith, WFA leaders, etc.).
- Develop a leadership team for on site Scripture Study for women by January 2009.

### JPIC Commission

- Educate and inform parishioners of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and any pertinent related activities.
- Foster an understanding of social sin in our prayers of reconciliation and in the liturgy.
- Include SSJ parish and JPIC as active participants in the International Community of San’ Egidio-ICSE, which represents a global approach to Catholic Social Teaching.

### Stewardship Board

- Conduct stewardship spirituality Mornings of Reflection for new parishioners, and “customize” Days of Reflection for no more than two parish organizations at a time.
- Develop a plan to cultivate the spirit of stewardship in families with children.

### Youth Ministry Board

- Develop a dynamic, lasting, and meaningful post-Confirmation faith sharing experience for high school juniors and seniors, thus increasing the number of youth participants.

### Prayer and Devotion Commission

- Provide presentations on Taize prayer, a labyrinth, and the place of personal prayer in spiritual life.

**Objective #2: Provide formation for ministers and educators to support them in their increased responsibilities in the community.**

**Strategies:**

Pastoral Leadership

- Establish job descriptions by April 2009 for volunteers which outline training requirements and the skills needed to be successful in their roles.

Catechetical Board

- Increase the number of opportunities and support for catechists to develop a mature faith and spiritual life, and to meet the requirements for diocesan certification.
- Provide opportunities and resources to help parents and couples grow closer in marriage, stronger as families, and better able to prepare their children morally and spiritually for life in our complex and challenging society. (*Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us* sec. 34)

Liturgy Planning Team

- Provide training, information, and formation for all liturgical ministers.
- Collaborate with the Youth Ministry Board in planning two annual liturgy workshops for high school youth. Workshops to be held by May 2009.

Bereavement/Pastoral Care Staff

- Provide discernment, formation, and training for those who serve in pastoral care ministries.

# Kerygma

*The truth of our baptism and confirmation is confronting us regularly, and we are beginning to see that being incorporated into this people carries responsibilities with it. No longer is it enough to be passive members, receiving a word told us by someone else, filing that word away to be taken out for a reading now and then. No longer is it enough to leave the work of the church to pastors and ordained leaders, as if the total responsibility was theirs. Instead, we are realizing that the word of God is addressing us, and asking us to live that word in our lives. We are a people called by the gospel, called to make a difference in our world.* Maria Harris

**Goal: We accept responsibility to proclaim the gospel beyond the walls of the church in our vocation and public life.**

**Objective #1: Provide opportunities for parishioners to develop confidence to discuss Scripture, the tradition and teachings of the Church, and one's own experience of faith.**

**Strategies:**

Catechetical Board

- Foster opportunities to share faith experiences through Lifelong Faith gatherings.
- Increase participation in small groups that meet to study the gospel and share faith experiences.

Stewardship Board

- Provide our parish with a core group of witness speakers who are willing to share their faith journey.

**Objective #2: At the close of parish events/gatherings, challenge parishioners to act on their increased understanding of the call of the gospel.**

**Strategies:**

Parish Leadership (members of Boards, Councils and Commissions)

- Develop agendas that start with the gospel and close with a call to action.

JPIC

- Provide opportunities to have personal encounters with situations in our larger community that need healing or change, and subsequently, to reflect on a biblical response to the experiences.
- Promote awareness of the Catholic Bishops' statement on forming conscience of faithful citizenship within the parish.
- Establish and maintain updated resources on social justice, including JPIC committee rosters, social justice and related speakers, websites, and recommended SSJ library materials.

# Diakonia

*One basic impulse in the vocation to care and serve, where we cherish a fundamental option for the poor, is that simply by being born and given life and freedom, we are receivers of gifts and grace. We also need to [acknowledge] the truth that the gifts which so abound for some of us are not shared equally. Reaching out in service is our attempt to redress that imbalance as a work of joy, delight, appreciation – and justice; fidelity to the demand of the vocation to be brothers and sisters to all, and engagement in the structured struggle to share the pleasures of God's good earth.*

Maria Harris

**Goal: We accept the responsibility to care for the poor and suffering through graceful giving and service.**

**Objective # 1: Identify, name, and celebrate the many ways in which members of our parish reflect the dimension of diakonia through their involvement in and support of community service organizations outside the parish.**

**Strategies:**

Stewardship Board

- Identify and gather information regarding the community service activities of parishioners and parish groups.

Pastoral Staff

- Design an event to be held in June 2009 which honors and celebrates the discipleship of these members of our parish.

**Objective #2: Raise awareness of the needs of the community by providing resources, contacts, and opportunities to serve.**

**Strategies:**

Catechetical Board

- Include resources and action plans that focus on justice and service in the Lifelong Faith home-faith kit for all participants.

JPIC

- Conduct and participate in activities that foster interfaith development, communication, understanding, and awareness in the spirit of Catholic teaching within SSJ and the greater Huntington Beach community.
- Offer parishioners an opportunity to support the Life Centers of Orange County.

Stewardship

- Reach out to all members of the SSJ community, offering them opportunities to enrich their discipleship by sharing their time and talents.

Youth Ministry Board

- Reconfigure the service component of the Confirmation preparation program so that all youth not only participate in, but also enrich their faith, by serving others.
- Recruit youth to serve in leadership positions in parish-wide programs and events.