

As our sanctuary renovation was being done, I thought it prudent to start looking to the future, and so I enlisted the help of Dr. Jimmy Turner, a recent convert to the Catholic faith and a Basilica parishioner, whose expertise happened to be Strategic Planning for non-profits. I would like to share with you now the results of this strategic planning effort we undertook last summer and fall.

Process and Methodology

Developing the strategic plan for the Basilica involved a two-part approach. First, the facilitator conducted community and consumer interviews. These interviews involved people from the community who are not associated with the Basilica, as well as clergy, lay leaders, and parishioners of the Basilica. The intent of these interviews was to gain an understanding of the community's awareness and perception of the Basilica, discover the perceived strengths and weaknesses of the Basilica's services, and build a profile of the Basilica for the planning group to consider as they look to the future.

The second stage in the planning process involved working sessions with the planning team. The planning team was comprised of a diverse group of people including clergy, lay leaders, and regular parishioners. It is important to note that the planning team committed 16 hours of time over two Saturdays. They certainly deserve recognition for their commitment to the Basilica and the sacrifice of their time to this endeavor. The following statements are the results of those two sessions.:

Strategic Plan 2018 - 2023

Guiding Principles

- All people need to be reconciled to God; Our Tradition is rooted in God's gift of His Son to the world to accomplish that reconciliation.
- The Catholic Church exercises this ministry of reconciliation through the celebration of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith.
- We believe that the Truth, Beauty, and Goodness of the traditional liturgical expressions and practices handed down to us by the universal church naturally lead people to these sacraments and thereby reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ.
- The work of our parish follows in the footsteps of the apostles, doing on a local level what is morally and objectively good for all humanity.
- Coming from diverse languages and backgrounds, united by our Roman (Latin) Rite heritage, we are called to be one community of faith grounded in the Eucharist.
- As a parish enjoying the title of 'Minor Basilica,' we accept the gift of the sacred art and architecture of our parish church. We acknowledge the responsibility to steward these gifts and share them with the greater Chattanooga community as an apostolate of beauty.

Mission Statement

The Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Chattanooga, Tennessee, exists to proclaim Jesus Christ, the font of all Truth, Beauty, and Goodness, and we continue His mission to form disciples from all peoples according to the tradition and patrimony of the Catholic Church.

Vision Statement

The Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul will be a parish of actively engaged, invested, and committed followers of Christ living the fullness of the Catholic Faith.

Strategic Priorities

1. Growth in Attendance and Participation
2. Facility Preservation
3. Active Marketing

Future Work: With the development of a clear set of guiding principles, a strong mission statement, a noteworthy vision, an understanding of the Basilica's strengths and weaknesses, outside opportunities and threats, and three clear strategic objectives, the planning team recommended that the action items and goals to achieve the strategic priorities would be conceived and implemented through the Parish Pastoral Council, under my guidance as pastor. I look forward to the results and to see the vision statement fulfilled!

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,



Rev. J. David Carter, JCL, Pastor and Rector