



Church of the Immaculate Conception

A Strategy for our Parish

Prepared by your Parish Pastoral Council



Rosebank Vision

To be a dynamic, thriving Catholic parish, which utilises the considerable spiritual, intellectual & financial resources & talents of all of its members to:

- Propagate the teachings of Christ & the Church
- Be a haven where parishioner's spiritual, liturgical and pastoral needs are satisfied; in a welcoming, family oriented, inclusive community; that provides support & guidance throughout new life experiences; by aligning individuals' spiritual life with the daily challenges of an increasingly secular world
- Fully understand the needs of it's existing & prospective parishioners
- Reach out within & beyond the parish to evangelise & be a source of spiritual refuge, care & compassion
- Promote ecumenism through collaboration with other parishes, Christian faiths & other religions
- Be seen as professionally managed, theologically & liturgically compliant & an integral part of the Diocese



Rosebank Mission

The Catholic parish of the Immaculate Conception in Rosebank Johannesburg comprises 1 priest & 4 deacons, who provide pastoral ministry & leadership through a wide range of parish activities, and a very diverse congregation of at least 1400 Catholic families, who adhere to the tenets of their faith to various degrees in a wide catchment area in the northern suburbs.

Under the direction of the Diocese, the parish seeks to evangelise by responding to the spiritual & human needs (through catechetics, contextual evangelical mission, education, pastoral work, the sacraments, lay movements & the nurturing of the community) of a predominantly secular, increasingly youthful society, experiencing the challenges of dramatic societal change.



SWOT Analysis



Internal Strengths

- Exceptional Parish priest in Father Harry
- Facilities
- Liturgical functions
- Talent, resources & activity of parishioners
- Finance/funding
- Volunteer system
- Data base
- Candour & trust
- Slowly increasing diversity (immigrants)
- Specific deliverables
 - Music (10.30 am & 6 pm Sunday)
 - Pre marriage guidance
 - Parking security

Internal Weaknesses

- Succession
- Breadth & complexity of tasks (80 different activities across sacraments, evangelisation & works) places too great a load on too few, part-time people
- Lack of “Broad based” parishioner involvement & appeal (i.e. <40’s)
- Lack of knowledge/education of Catholic faith & parish activities
- Perception of unfriendliness & cliques (Us/Them)
- Specific deliverables
 - Sub optimising the “Homily time”
 - 8 am Sunday music
 - Website not under control of PPC
 - Sound system



External Opportunities

- Satisfy a growing societal need for spiritual identity & guidance in a turbulent secular world
- Evangelise based on the authenticity of Catholicism
- Use Rosebank's leadership position in the Diocese & deanery to realise our Vision & to shape the Catholic position on national issues – AIDS, Crime, etc
- Use external resources (preachers, speakers, ideas, fund raising, youth groups - Seekers, web etc.) to realise our Vision
- Learn by networking with other parishes/denominations
- Promote diversity including immigrants
- Better utilise technology to foster community & teach
- Utilise Catholic media/schools/University to expand our congregation
- Establish/promote meaningful platforms for giving to the poor & needy

External Threats

- Shortage of priests
- Secularisation/materialism of society
- Commercialisation of residential area in vicinity of Rosebank
- “Packaging” by other parishes/faiths (Rhema)
- Demands on people’s time/other activities
- Lack of knowledge/misinformation about Catholicism
- General perceptions about Catholic Church’s disconnect with modern life (i.e. birth control, gay relationships, divorcee participation in church life, poor response to scandals, contraception in face of AIDS, etc)



Strategies & Plans

Strategies & Plans

Youth Affairs

- Children (<12's)
 - monthly mass with children's homily
 - brief post monthly mass social activity for children/young mothers/parents
- Teens (13 – 17)
 - identify appropriate activities of interest
 - consider monthly teenage mass
 - enhance relationships with schools
 - promote interaction with catechetics

Strategies & Plans

Youth Affairs

- Young adult group (18 – <30)
 - publicise/promote activities beyond youth music ministry
 - sustain interest with relevant non religious topics
 - appoint a professional youth coordinator

Strategies & Plans

Learning & Instruction

- Bible & Catholic Doctrine classes
- Grow Parish library
- Internet references for enquirers
- Promote S/Cross & Trefoil
- Regular sermons & lectures by visiting priests & deacons
- Discussions on controversial “Catholic” subjects
- Social Issues awareness
 - Environmental
 - Business ethics



Strategies & Plans

Spiritual Upliftment

- Program of reflections and retreats
- Establish small faith sharing communities
- Regular sermons & lectures by visiting priests & deacons



Strategies & Plans

Community Building

- Establish small faith sharing communities
- Establish neighborhood support groups
- Establish social calendar (small & large groups)
- Ecumenical affairs sub-committee

Strategies & Plans

Community Building (Cont.)

- In depth evaluation of needs of 3.30 community & then actions to include this community more in the life of the parish
- Involve parishioners in Diocesan affairs
- Young families (newly weds to 40)
 - target young family people with activities, events & lectures relevant to their life cycle & life style



Strategies & Plans

Caring & Support

- Establish family crisis support competence
- Establish neighborhood support groups
- Strategy for assisting the:
 - Bereaved
 - Divorced
 - Widowed
 - Retrenched

Strategies & Plans

Communication

- Update & use parishioner data base
- Establish sms/e-mail/facebook to build community, inform & teach
- Optimise use of Parish's web-site
- Communicate all Parish activity

Strategies & Plans

Human Resource Management

- Recruit more volunteer parishioners to be active in Parish life:
 - Adults, who are diverse in terms of race, gender and occupation
 - Young people
- Recruit professional youth coordinator

#1 requirement **NOW**

- More Parishioners to assist in making our plans happen
- If you would like to contribute in any way, please:
 - Give your name to a PPC member after this mass
 - or hand in at the parish office
 - or call the office at 011 788 5226
 - Or fax to 011 788 7955
 - Or e-mail to rosebank@catholic.co.za



Acknowledgements

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