



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

216 East Dunstable Road Nashua, NH 03062 - (603)888-0321

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

June 19, 2016

Over the years, and especially in the last two years, we have seen a lot of great events here at Immaculate Conception Parish helping us in our spiritual growth. I just want to highlight one event where IC was for example the only parish in the entire state of New Hampshire for the “Pilgrimage of Mercy”, giving more than 4,000 faithful from the entire North East the opportunity to venerate St. Maria Goretti’s sacred relics. I could mention many more examples that show that we are one of the more active parishes in our area.

However, when we compare ourselves with vital catholic parishes around the country, we need to admit that we are “stuck” in a state of maintenance mode. What are the reasons that we are in this state?

- First, our parish experienced a lot of change over the past few years.
- Second, we have witnessed with the take-over of new technologies like Social Media the most accelerated social change in human history, yet in the world of our churches, not much has changed.

Recognizing the need that we have to adjust to those changes, and also to address your feedback from last year’s parish survey, we have looked at parishes across North America that have successfully transitioned from a maintenance church to a vital and missionary parish.

What does a missionary church or missionary parish actually mean? It means that Parishes that are missionary are called to form disciples out of their own community who joyfully live out the mission of Jesus Christ. This in turn means that the parishioners “meaning you sitting in the pews” are not only committed to worship and grow in your faith, but also to serve, connect with others, and to give back to others.

Based on what we have seen after looking at many of those missionary parishes, we have focused for the past six months on implementing a new Parish Pastoral Council Operations Model. This new model will help us and the entire Parish to better carry out our Mission and Ministry in this new world, and to move towards a missionary parish at the same time.



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Key pillars of this new model are

- closer collaboration between Parish Pastoral Council and the various parish ministries,
- comprehensive pastoral planning, and
- adhering to decision-making structures that are designed to support the ongoing implementation of that pastoral plan.

As a primary visioning body of the parish, the Parish Pastoral Council assists Fr. Ray in his leadership role of planning, organizing, initiating, promoting, coordinating and reviewing the evangelization, worship, religious education & formation and service activities within the parish.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide you today with this update. We will share many more details about the progress that we make implementing our new Operating Model and other future plans on a regular basis with you.

Thank you!

On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council,

Ludwig Heil, Parish Pastoral Council Chair