

**The Church of the Annunciation  
Pastoral Plan Summary  
2019**

It is with great excitement that we announce that Fr. Felix and the Pastoral Council have worked over the last few months to develop a Vision Statement, a Mission Statement, and a Pastoral Plan for our Parish!

The primary objectives in this process were to clearly define who we are as a Parish and develop a definitive plan to enhance and grow Parish life in all regards.

These are exciting times for The Church of the Annunciation – we can see the changes underway in the physical structures and on the grounds, and we are actively planning for Parish life to be enhanced as well!

The Vision Statement and Mission Statement are set forth below.

**Vision Statement:**

The Church of the Annunciation will preserve our tradition of Roman Catholic faith and service through truth, goodness, beauty, and through our dedication to reverently proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Mission Statement:**

The Church of the Annunciation has been grounded from its foundation in 1869 in a tradition of Catholic faith and service and will continue to be a leader in the community honoring our rich history and beauty. In pursuit of the Great Commission of Jesus Christ, we will:

- promote reverence and the sense of the sacred,
- celebrate the Holy Mass in both the Ordinary Form and the Extraordinary Form,
- value the sacrament of Matrimony, the family, and the sanctity of life,
- serve the greater Houston community and beyond through outreach, and
- extend an open invitation to all to participate in the life of the Church.

Our Pastoral Plan (the “Plan”) is comprised of seven Objectives (set out below) with initial action items to implement the Plan and further the Objectives. The Plan has been prepared in a way that allows parishioners (through Working Groups to be formed to support each Objective) to actively implement and influence Parish activities. Through implementation of the Plan, many opportunities will surface for leadership roles within the Parish. Interested parishioners will be asked to identify themselves to Fr. Felix in the coming weeks! Please take this opportunity to review the Objectives and determine where you might like to become involved in implementing the Plan and participating in Working Groups to support the Objectives. The sense of Community within the Parish and active involvement of parishioners will thrive as we move forward together!

**Objective 1. Vision and Mission to Nurture Faith**

Seize the opportunity to invite the Holy Spirit to kindle the fire of His love and inspire the faithful of Annunciation and the greater Houston community to: (i) grow in knowledge about God and the Church founded by His Son our Lord Jesus Christ, and develop an insatiable desire to share it, (ii) participate in educational opportunities with a view to facilitate growth in the Faith, (iii) proclaim the Good News of the Gospel in majestic beauty, and (iv) expand Parish services to foster growth in Liturgical spirituality for all members of the Parish family.

**Objective 2. Growth and Retention**

Invest our time, talent, and treasure in both our Parish family and in the greater Houston community to: (i) attract and retain a diverse and active membership, (ii) foster engagement of both our Parish family and the greater community in the Parish activities and in our Catholic Faith, and (iii) enable a better understanding of, and address the needs of, the different parishioner demographics and the greater community to promote ownership within the Parish community and, thereby, advance growth and retention.

**Objective 3. Internal Outreach/Stewardship**

Take stock of the blessings and talents God has given us and actively identify resources to develop new programs and apostolates, with a view to ensure the needs of all are met. Strive to provide our extraordinarily diverse parish community with meaningful opportunities to understand and engage each other as well as the broader community. Invite parishioners to share in the parish vision by engaging their individual strengths.

**Objective 4. External Outreach**

Engage the greater community, including the broader Catholic community, through: (i) mutual support and collaboration, (ii) identifying and empowering outreach advocates who possess strong relationships with other parishes and local organizations, and (iii) the building of an external network with other churches and community groups to encourage the sharing of resources, attendance at functions, and the provision of assistance in times of need.

**Objective 5. Internal Development Opportunities – Long Range Plan**

Leverage and capitalize on both the current change that the physical Parish premises are undergoing and the rapid urban renewal within downtown Houston to create an atmosphere of growth and excitement in the Parish: (i) by inviting all to participate thereby promoting a sense of ownership by all in charting the direction of Parish growth and development, (ii) instilling value in all that parishioners have to offer, (iii) inviting and inspiring active participation by parishioners, visitors, and others, and (iv) energizing parishioners and the greater Houston community to commit their time, talent, and treasure.

**Objective 6. Outside Influences**

Adopt a proactive approach in identifying and addressing outside influences. Recognize and actively manage those outside influences that are within the control of the Parish. Pinpoint those influences that are outside of Parish control to enable the Parish to develop mitigation efforts to minimize their impact.

**Objective 7. Vision to Come – Annunciation in the Greater Community**

Annunciation will preserve the tradition of the Catholic faith and service through truth, goodness, and beauty, and through our dedication to reverently proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This vision will be promoted by becoming an active part in the growth and development of the community and by emphasizing the benefits that Annunciation offers.

## **Executive Summary Five-Year Plan**

The Church of the Annunciation has developed a Five-Year Pastoral Plan (the “Plan”) to clearly define who we are as a Parish and develop a definitive plan to enhance and grow Parish life in all regards. The Plan is comprised of seven Objectives which set the basis and direction for facilitating and enriching parish life in the context of (i) the vision for the Parish in the future and its intended mission, (ii) external and internal outreach, (iii) development opportunities, and (iv) continued awareness of outside influences that offer challenges and opportunity. The initial action items to implement the Plan and further the Objectives are contemplated in the Plan. The Plan has been prepared in a way that allows parishioners (through Working Groups to be formed to support each Objective) to actively implement the Plan and evaluate the Objectives and Action Items on a periodic basis – it has been designed as a dynamic “rolling plan” to accommodate appropriate changes. Through implementation of the Plan, many opportunities will surface for service and leadership roles within the Parish. Interested parishioners will be asked to identify themselves to Fr. Felix in the coming weeks! The sense of Community within the Parish and active involvement of parishioners will thrive as we move forward together!