

DYNAMIC PARISH

BE BOLD. BE CATHOLIC.

What happened at the Dream Event?

There was a great turnout of people who attended the recent Dream Event in the parish. Many dreams were shared. It was informative, fast-paced and fun.

This article is for everyone in our parish who was unable to attend the Dream Event. For weeks leading up to the event, you likely saw messages in our bulletin and around the parish about it. Now, you'll hear stories from those who attended and see various other messages around the parish. So we'd like to share with you what we did at the Dream Event and then to invite you to participate in all the next steps that we are doing.

We learned at the beginning of the evening that our speaker, Tony Ferraro, was a "certified dream manager," public speaker and executive coach now after having served for more than a decade as a principal of a K-12 Catholic School. Earlier in Tony's professional life he was a college baseball coach, a physics teacher and built and sold an educational technology consulting company. He is the father of 7 children, ages 24 to 7. Tony was able to weave in many funny anecdotes and moving stories throughout our dreaming.

Tony shared throughout the night that the ability to dream is one of God's greatest gifts to each of us and that our parish can only be the best version of itself to the extent that parishioners are the best versions of themselves. Because dreaming leads to deeper engagement, it can propel us along the way to becoming the people and the parish God is calling us to be!

Leaving the event, many felt energized and inspired to unleash the power of dreams in their own lives and to help loved ones do the same. We can't help but invite you to join us in this exercise of dreaming personal dreams across all aspects of our lives. From physical dreams to dreams for our parish, we imagined together what our community could be like in the future.

Here is a sample of the questions we answered through technology: What's your best memory as a Catholic? What has been your most significant moment as a member of this parish? How important is it for you to be a Dynamic Catholic? How would you like your parish to be perceived by the greater community? What are your dreams for how the parish will serve your family? What's one word that would best describe your dream parish? What's one word to describe God's dream parish? If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you like to go? What one relationship would you most like to improve in your life? What's one thing you will start doing today to start becoming a better version of yourself?

The responses we wrote in our personal dream journals were across 12 categories of dreams: legacy, character, intellectual, emotional, financial, physical, emotional, psychological, creative, material, adventure, professional and spiritual. Tony asked us to accept the 100 Dream Challenge and write at least one hundred dreams across these twelve categories (a little bit more than eight per category on average) over time. It can seem like a lot but many parishioners had 20-25 written by the end of the night and had the list finished by the following weekend.

Every person in our parish, from someone who has been here fifty years to someone just visiting today, is encouraged to participate in the 100 Dream Challenge. You can pick up a Dream Journal and Dynamic Catholic pen in the back of church or in the vestibule. Once you've listed your 100 dreams, we invite you to get together with others and share some or all of your dreams with each other. Strive to help someone else to achieve a dream. Pick a dream from your list and put together a plan to achieve it. Then, once complete, pick another one. Many dreams can also become good Lenten or annual resolutions, so keep your Dream Journal in a memorable place, add to it when new dreams come to mind, and cross off the dreams you've realized!