

Our Mother of Consolation Parish

Established 1855



Pastoral Plan 2021-26

Parish Mission Prayer

Nourished by the Word and Eucharist, we, the members of Our Mother of Consolation Parish, strive to create a vital, welcoming Catholic faith community that embraces each person. Acknowledging our blessings and supporting one another, we humbly serve the needs of God's people and work to be the presence of Christ in our world.



Live + Jesus

Our Mother of Consolation Parish

9 East Chestnut Hill Ave - Philadelphia, PA 19118

www.omcparish.com

October 2021

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

The process of pastoral planning is an opportunity, every five years, for our parish leadership and community to reflect on our values, priorities, and ministries as we develop new visions and goals built on the foundation of our Parish Mission Prayer. This most recent round of our pastoral planning was long delayed by the pandemic and was influenced by our experiences of the sufferings of the past 18 months, in mourning those who have died, and in reclaiming that which has been taken from us due to the pandemic, systemic racism, and political divisiveness. We believe that these influences have challenged us to reexamine in a more profound way how we as a parish embrace each person and work to be the presence of Christ in our world.

There is agreement among the Parish Pastoral Council of the need to rebuild on many levels. It is our hope that the 2021-26 Parish Pastoral Plan will not only provide our community with a blueprint for rebuilding that which has been lost in our parish over the past year and a half, but more importantly, will challenge us to rebuild with diversity, equity, and inclusion at the center of our worship and of all that we do. We believe that in doing so, our parish will continue to build a faith-filled foundation and contribute to mending those social structures that have caused much suffering.

This plan is not static, but rather a dynamic document that needs the support of all our parishioners. We invite you to prayerfully reflect on this plan and to consider where God may be calling you to minister.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish as we strive to create a vital, welcoming, Catholic faith community.

Sincerely,
OMC Parish Pastoral Council

Worship

We will provide accessible and inclusive opportunities for all to engage in full, active, and conscious participation in worship.

- † Initiate intergenerational, multicultural, accessible, and ethnically diverse opportunities within our worship experiences.
- † Provide opportunities to gather in fellowship for worship with other faith traditions.

Faith Formation

We will create individual and communal opportunities to learn about and deepen our relationship with God and to grow spiritually as Christ's disciples.

- † Provide annual and seasonal parish-wide retreats for various age groups.
- † Create informal gatherings to discuss issues pertinent to our faith.
- † Develop annual programming to include a wide range of topics such as moral formation, social issues, and communal/individual prayer.

Service

We will challenge parishioners to serve others and to advocate for justice - locally, nationally, and globally.

- † Create a Service Coordinator position and/or Service Committee to steer, promote and expand OMC's commitment to service.
- † Provide parishioners service and educational opportunities addressing racial equity, justice, and equality for all on a local and global level.

Community

We will be purposeful in offering opportunities to engage people of all backgrounds, so that our Parish may reflect the universality of the Church.

- † Reengage our parish community post-pandemic.
- † Create multiple opportunities for young people to engage with their faith through parish programs.
- † Offer more events that foster and engage the diversity within our parish and school communities.

Leadership

Striving to reflect the diversity of our parish, we will invite parishioners of all backgrounds to live out their call to discipleship through parish leadership.

- † Create a leadership development opportunity for those called to parish ministry that integrates the spiritualities of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales.
- † Establish a diversity and inclusivity committee to facilitate welcoming parishioners of diverse racial, ethnic, cultural, educational, and ability backgrounds into parish leadership.
- † Develop a mentorship program for emerging parish leaders to work with current council and service leaders.

Stewardship

Acknowledging the call to a life of responsibility, we will foster appreciation for the gifts entrusted to us, and the importance of sharing them.

- † Foster learning opportunities for the Parish Finance Council, and interested parishioners, regarding Environmental, Social, and Governance Investing (ESG); Socially Responsible Investing (SRI); and Impact Investing.
- † Increase awareness of, and participation in, the OMC Climate Ministry.
- † Offer a gift or event to show appreciation for all parishioners.

Evangelization

We will cultivate our desire and ability to witness the Catholic faith in word and action, reflecting the inclusive love of Christ.

- † Create a group of parishioners responsible for reaching out to parishioners to reengage them in parish life.
- † Expand our reach to those beyond the parish by expanding participation in Reach More, as well as welcoming those outside the parish to other events.

Acknowledgements

It is with much gratitude that we acknowledge and thank our PPC members and all our parishioners who have given of their time and talent in the development of our Parish Pastoral Plan, especially:

Frank Amuso, Chris Blatney, Nora Blatney, Mike Breen, Howie Brown, Suzanne Danella, Maria Della Porta, Kirsten Edling, Anna Fontenot, Nora Furletti, Catherine Grogan, Beth Hagovsky, Connie Heppenstall, Christine Kennedy, Elizabeth Matthew, Maura Matthews, Patrick Mullen, Scott Perricelli, Jeremy Powell, Jason Santini, Nancy Sullivan