

All Saints Catholic Church  
410 Main Cross Street  
Taylorsville, Kentucky



## VISION FOR TOMORROW

In a recent Parish Wide InFocus Workshop, all members were invited to a Saturday morning gathering in October 2018 to begin praying, preparing, and planning for the parish's future. We prayed together and shared warm memories of our parish's wonderful history. We laughed together, too, and felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. We contemplated our parish's future and what God's will might be for All Saints in the decades ahead.

Under the direction of a parish consultant from Generis-Ashley|Rountree, a local Archdiocesan-approved parish consulting firm, we explored five important questions as they relate to All Saints:

1. What is our parish mission?
2. What is our parish make-up?
3. Who are those we are called to reach with the Gospel?
4. How does our present location and how do our facilities help or hinder our mission?
5. Based on all we have learned, what should be our priority(s) going forward?

For three hours we sat at tables of four to eight parishioners and reaffirmed our parish mission to "spread the Gospel, evangelize, and bring souls to God."

First, we acknowledged our **strengths** as a parish. For example, we observed...

- We are a diverse congregation, but a friendly and welcoming one, too.
- We serve well together, sharing and supporting one another with the love of Christ.
- We also seek to reach out to our community and welcome others to faith in Christ.

Second, in addition to acknowledging our strengths, we identified our **challenges**, too.

- We are a small parish in the midst of a shortage of priests, a shortage that is only increasing not decreasing.
- While Spencer County is growing, most growth is occurring in the northwest - away from our current church.
- Many Catholics moving into that area are not attending All Saints but are returning to parishes in Jefferson County.
- Given our size, our little growth, and the shortage of priests, All Saints could be forced to close or merge one day.

While members agreed these were serious challenges, they also uniformly agreed All Saints must survive, thrive and grow.

**For the parish to survive, thrive, and grow**, this means...

- Members must participate and support All Saints with their presence and active involvement.
- Members must stay true to our parish's primary mission – "to reach others with the Gospel of Christ."
- Members must be generous with their time, talents, and treasures.
- Members must be committed to the future and the long-term sustainability of All Saints.

By the end of the workshop, the general consensus among participants was that the parish should consider finding and funding the purchase of land somewhere in the county. While no area was considered off limits, the growth areas appear to be the logical areas for consideration.

This consensus does not mean that anyone welcomes the thought of our parish closing. Further, no one is overjoyed with the notion of possibly relocating the church, at least not anytime soon.

What it does mean is that All Saints must grow. Staying the same, or worse, declining in size, will almost assuredly put our church's future at risk. Remaining true to our mission to grow and reach others with the Gospel of Christ is our mandate from Christ Himself. That mission must increasingly become the overriding drive within the hearts of all parishioners.

Few things would better ensure a long-term future for All Saints than real growth and a clear demonstration to both our community and our Archdiocese that we are serious about our future and we are preparing for it today.

While land is more available now and more reasonable in cost than it will likely be in the future, it seems prudent that we prepare for the future by acting responsibly now. As we noted at the Workshop, Winston Churchill said, "The price of greatness is responsibility." The degree to which a parish achieves greatness, and sustains that greatness, is directly related to the degree of responsibility each of us takes for it.

We must take responsibility for our future. We must be proactive and plan for tomorrow.

We must have open minds and dedicated hearts.

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will continue to achieve our mission goals.

So, **what happens next?**

Our next step is to conduct a feasibility study to consider further this question: Do the majority of parishioners agree that finding and funding the purchase of land for the future growth and expansion of our parish ministry is the next most prudent decision we might make as a parish?

To answer this question, our consultant will conduct several confidential interviews with a representative group of parish households. Since he cannot interview everyone, all other members will be encouraged to answer the same questions he will ask of the interviewees. These questions will comprise a survey you will be encouraged to answer, either online or in print. More details will be coming soon. Be sure to be present in Mass over the next few weeks and watch for announcements as they appear in the Sunday bulletin.

- Your participation is encouraged.
- Your voice in our discernment process is important.
- Together, we will discern God's direction for our parish.
- Again, we affirm our confidence in the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you for your love of All Saints and your prayerful participation.

Sincerely,

Rev. John R. Johnson, Pastor

*Follow-up to this letter:*

Please review information in parish bulletins, our parish website (<http://allsaintstville.org>) and our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsTvilleKY/>) as information about this project is posted.