

Dear Friends,

Eighteen months ago I wrote to you announcing that we would be undergoing a process in the parish to set goals and objectives for the next three years. We began that process with a town hall meeting at which a hundred of more parishioners attended. We followed up on the meeting with an on-line survey to which more than two hundred parishioners responded. The meeting and survey had as their goal identifying ways in which we can grow as a community and better serve not only our own needs but those of the larger community.

After all the material was gathered the parish staff and the pastoral council took the meeting, reviewed it all and began formulating a plan for the future of our parish as we approach our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019. The material, as you may recall, was centered on five areas of parish life: worship, word (education), community, service and administration. These areas are often referred to as the indicators of vitality in parishes. After many months of discussions and revisions, I am happy to report that the process is now completed, and I would like to begin sharing the results of these eighteen months of work with you today.

The staff and pastoral council first looked at our mission statement, asking, “Does it still express who and what we as the parish of Jesus the Divine Word are called to be about?” Overall, we agreed that it did, but based on the survey results and our insights as leaders and participants in the community we decided there was need for some revision. The following, we believe, better expresses our Catholic mission at this point in our history:

**Jesus the Divine Word Church is a Catholic community of faith centered on the Eucharist and committed to bringing Jesus to others. We pledge to:**

**Evangelize by word and example;  
Reconcile with God and one another;  
Invite others to discipleship, and  
Guide each member to service of the family, the Church  
and the world, all for the greater glory of God.**

Once we concluded our discussion and revision on our mission, we then set about formulating our goals and objectives. Over the next few weeks, those goals and objectives will be published in our bulletin. As you read them, it is our hope that you will agree with us that the direction we have set truly is the right path for us at this time.

Peace and blessings,  
Fr. John