



# SAINT CLARE PARISH

*The Roman Catholic Diocese of Green Bay*

*Est. 2009 ~ In Christ*

## “TRADITION IN PROGRESS”

*Enacted 12 July 2017*

*2017: Charting a 10-Year Course for Faithful Discipleship*

### **I. Parish Assessment and Proposal of a New Direction**

#### **Assessment:**

1. After almost eight years as a merged entity, Saint Clare Parish remains segmented in her social life, worship, and thoughts about her church buildings. On the positive side of this, there is a desire among parishioners to nurture their local communities, traditions, and sense of identity in the life of the larger Church. On the negative side, there is a tendency toward detachment, whether from the larger parish, diocesan, or global community.
2. Financially, the parish is moving in an upward direction. After a period of decline from 2013 to May 2016, Mass attendance and financial support are steadily increasing. Confidence in the parish as a worthy investment of time, efforts, and money appears to be building again.

#### **Proposed Foundation for Future Direction:**

3. To accept the nature of Saint Clare Parish as it is (that is, as a parish which is both diverse in a positive sense, and divided in a negative sense), and to base parish-wide decisions—in the next few years—on that nature; cultivating legitimate diversity, and overcoming division.
4. This proposal leads to a resolution which is tailor-made for Saint Clare Parish, one that highlights the parish as it is *in reality*: **a community of smaller communities**, each with its own identity and sense of self. This is a reflection of the wider Catholic Church herself, which is a global community of communities.
5. The 2017 Pastoral Plan, “Tradition in Progress,” takes as its starting point the proposal to: Operate Saint Clare Parish as a multi-campus parish, with a central hub and some new structures on the new land, while continuing to use the current church buildings for the time being (more details in Section VI below).
6. The initial draft was drawn up by Fr. Brian Wideman, after extensive review and consideration of: the parish history, internals, and dynamics; all past surveys and parishioner input received from 2011 to date; conversations with parishioners; and consultation with the Pastoral and Finance Councils, Parish Staff, as well as a 12-member 2017 Pastoral Planning Group gathered together as an additional consultative body.

#### **Goals of the 2017 Pastoral Plan**

- ◆ More intentional discipleship in Christ
- ◆ Conscious and active participation in liturgy
- ◆ Pride in the faith and in the parish
- ◆ Intra-parish cooperation and community
- ◆ As much parishioner involvement as possible
- ◆ “Unity in diversity”
- ◆ Financial health and awareness

#### **Areas of Focus in the 2017 Pastoral Plan**

- ◆ Sunday: The Day of The Lord
- ◆ Expanding Liturgical and Prayer Life
- ◆ Discipleship and Stewardship
- ◆ Relationship Between Local and Parish-wide Community
- ◆ Buildings and Properties
- ◆ Finances

## II. SUNDAY: THE DAY OF THE LORD

7. Saint Pope John Paul II wrote in *Dies Domini* (1998): “Sunday is a day which is at the very heart of the Christian life. . . . Today I would strongly urge everyone to rediscover Sunday: Do not be afraid to give your time to Christ! . . . Time given to Christ is never time lost, but is rather time gained, so that our relationships and indeed our whole life may become more profoundly human.”

8. Keeping in mind these words of St. John Paul II, as well as the Lord’s commandments to love God and to keep holy the Sabbath, the 2017 Pastoral Plan will move St. Clare Parish to:

- A. Quality in celebrating Sunday Mass
    - 1. Music, Hospitality, and Preaching
    - 2. Diversify worship styles (more clearly traditional and/or contemporary)
    - 3. Children’s Liturgy of the Word (at 10:00 Mass, unless needed at other Mass times as well)
  - B. Create a “Sunday Committee” — An advisory/evaluative group which critiques the “Sunday Experience” at St. Clare (regarding especially music, hospitality, and environment)
  - C. Add Sunday morning catechesis (on occasion) as part of both youth and adult faith formation
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## III. EXPANDING LITURGICAL & PRAYER LIFE

9. “Right relationship” with God is what was lost in the Garden of Eden. Ever since, it’s been God’s labor of love to correct this. Since it was founded by Christ, the Church has championed the sacraments, prayer, and personal conversion as essential in restoring right relationship with God. By participating in these (and more), we are participating in the work of God. The “work of God” is at the heart of what we call “liturgy.”

10. With this in mind, the 2017 Pastoral Plan will move St. Clare Parish to:

- A. Add regular Eucharistic Adoration (in addition to our monthly diocesan Holy Hour)
  - B. Add outdoor shrines, places of prayer, prayer gardens, grottos, Rosary gardens, etc.
  - C. Highlight and enhance/expand interior devotional spaces
  - D. Include Mass as a regular “experiential” component of Discipleship Formation (RE)
  - E. Add the regular communal celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours
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## IV. DISCIPLESHIP & STEWARDSHIP

11. We are each, by our own profession of faith, followers and imitators of the Lord Jesus Christ. And so, discipleship is fundamental to our identity. So, too, is stewardship, as Our Lord is the Steward of all that is.

12. Heightening our identity as both disciples and stewards, the 2017 Pastoral Plan will:

- A. Provide for greater encouragement and guidance to the St. Clare Youth Group
- B. Provide discussion/instruction for parents and teens, especially around faith and daily life
- C. Add Theological Discussion Groups to the Adult Faith Formation experience
- D. Revamp the High School Discipleship Formation (RE) Program
- E. Continue providing care ministry to the sick and homebound
- F. Become a “sister parish” to another parish as a chance to be mutually supportive

- G. Establish a Stewardship Council
- H. Establish a “St. Clare Volunteer Corps”
- I. Bolster parish-wide communications and marketing
- J. Establish a Vocations Awareness Group

## V. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL & PARISH-WIDE COMMUNITY

13. In keeping with the goal to maintain or recover a more “personal” church experience on the local level, the 2017 Pastoral Plan will enact **both parish-wide and local groups** in the overall organization of St. Clare Parish. While the parish-wide councils, committees and groups will be maintained (and added to), subsidiary (local) groups will also be established to foster more participation and “ownership” among parishioners.

14. Parish-Wide organizations include: Pastoral, Stewardship, and Finance Councils; Adult Faith Formation; Youth Ministry; Discipleship Formation (RE); Family Life; Evangelization; Social Justice; Vocations; School; Liturgy; Sunday; Parish Life; SCRIP; Buildings & Grounds; Cemetery; Safety; Development; Tithing; Fundraising; and the Volunteer Corps.

15. Local organizations (working in tandem with various parish-wide organizations) include: SCRIP; Socials; Landscaping; Maintenance; Sacristan; Liturgical Environment; Devotions; and Welcoming.

## VI. BUILDINGS & PROPERTIES

16. The futures of the parish’s buildings and properties (her church buildings, in particular) remain, after eight years, a significant point of disagreement. Surveys reveal time and again that there are a number of parishioners at **each** campus who favor a single new church building, as well as those at **each** campus who are not in favor of such a move. Some say it’s a poor use of money to renovate old, existing buildings. Some say it’s a good use of money to care for what the parish already owns. Solid arguments can be made for either side. The 2017 Pastoral Plan uses a **phased approach** with regard to St. Clare buildings and properties.

17. For the year **2017** the following is planned:

- A. Raze the old rectory and convent in Wrightstown (Current bids average \$37,000 for demo) 
  - Add some additional parking, but mostly green space in place of the rectory
  - Add additional parking in place of the convent
  - **Fund the razing primarily through 2 auctions:** 
    - **parish auction in June, and architectural salvage auction in July**
- B. Retain and seed approx. 3 acres of the new land for immediate parish use (e.g., socials, picnics, etc.); rent the remaining 12 acres for farming. **[COMPLETED]**
- C. Have all church buildings, St. Clare School and the Greenleaf offices/school inspected by an independent inspector, focusing on plumbing, electrical, and structural integrity. **[COMPLETED]**

18. For the years **2018-2022**, the following is planned:

- A. Build a new Parish Center on the new land; the Parish Center to consist of: 
  - 1. **New Parish Office**  
Because of the much-needed common land and meeting space  
Including a parish library, parish history room, and rooms for counseling
  - 2. **New Discipleship Formation (RE) Center & St. Clare School**  
Because of the proximity to the high and middle schools and, thereby,  
Because of the possibility of student ministry, activity, and outreach  
Because the RE Center and 3K-8 School will share about 75% common space between them
  - 3. **New Parish Social/Multi-Purpose Hall**  
Because of the much-needed common social space  
It can also be used as a worship space (occasionally)

**Expense:** An amount that is financially feasible, responsible, and doable for the parish.

- B. Rent out (first option) or raze the school building and offices in Greenleaf.

C. Maintain the priest's residence as is, at the rectory in Greenleaf

D. A modest renovation/refreshing of the existing church buildings

➡ 1. Any work done on the existing buildings would be **secondary** to the primary work of building a new Parish Center on the new land.

💰 ➡ 2. Renovation expenses will be balanced with the long-range possibility of building a new church. Meaning, the expenses will not (cannot) be excessive.

➡ 3. Renovations are both for the **integrity and accessibility** of the structures, and for the **enhancement of the buildings' purpose**; namely, the worship of God through liturgy.

4. **Wrightstown:** reappoint sanctuary; reconfigure sacristies; organ upkeep and a larger piano; redesign confessional in accord with Safe Environment guidelines; deeper gathering space/narthex in back; new liturgical environment storage room in basement.

5. **Greenleaf:** reappoint sanctuary; reconfigure sacristy; organ upkeep; soundproof the confessional; add a ramp for accessibility.

6. **Askeaton:** reappoint sanctuary; reconfigure sacristy; new organ; paint the ceiling and address interior lighting; replace kneelers; add an exterior ramp for accessibility.

19. This plan will defer formal discussions of a new church building until after such time as the parish community can be better prepared (spiritually, catechetically, emotionally) to make that decision. In the interim, a comprehensive program of parish-wide catechesis will be implemented focused on various topics that will help the community decide on the future of its church buildings. Topics such as: Catholic architecture, what the liturgy is and what happens there, the place of devotions in Catholic life, spirituality, signs and symbols, Catholic art, the theology behind what makes the Church the Church, and so on.

20. This plan will give some consideration to repurposing the Askeaton campus as a parish-sponsored retreat center (because of its more remote location, which is part of a retreat experience). This can provide a much needed service to the faithful in other parts of our diocese, and also provide some additional revenue to the parish.

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## VII. FINANCES

21. The Finance Council will prepare and implement a multi-tiered, revolving 5-Year Financial Plan, considering: the operational costs of the parish, maintenance needs, and plans for ongoing growth and development.

22. Three new committees will be created to help bolster financial health and growth:

A. **Development** Committee (looking at fundraising for both parish and school)

B. **Tithing** Committee (working specifically to strengthen sacrificial giving), and

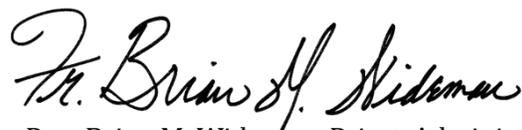
C. **SCRIP** Committee (coordinating inventory, and reporting transactions to the Finance Council)

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23. A copy of this plan, as well as other supporting documents, can be found at: [stclareagw.org](http://stclareagw.org)

24. A draft of the pastoral plan, "Tradition in Progress," was presented to the parish community at a townhall meeting on May 30, 2017. Feedback received was used to modify the draft. The modified draft was presented to the Pastoral and Finance Councils, as well as the Parish Trustees for a final consultation. After another period of prayer and reflection, this final draft is presented.

*St. Clare Parishioners having been heard, and the Parish Councils and Trustees having been consulted, the pastoral plan outlined above, "Tradition in Progress," is hereby put into effect, this 12th day of July, 2017. The details of the plan are subject to change as time and circumstances unfold. May Almighty God bless this work, if it be good and true.*



Rev. Brian M. Wideman, Priest-Administrator  
St. Clare Catholic Parish