



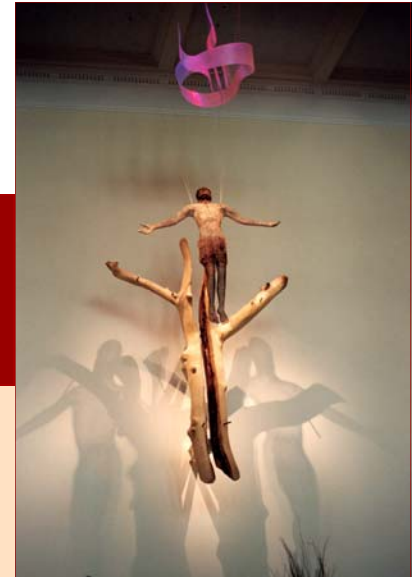
Paulist Center Boston

2011—2016

Five Year Strategic Plan

Mission Statement

Attentive to the Holy Spirit and nourished by vibrant liturgy,
we are a Catholic community that welcomes all, fosters healing and reconciliation,
and acts for justice.



Value Statements

The Paulist Center community values:

Liturgy

We are committed to the Catholic tradition and we celebrate liturgies drawing on the gifts of the community.

Spirituality

We ground our lives in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the sacraments, and prayer, personal and communal, influenced by Paulist spirituality.

Inclusivity

We welcome all and embrace people of diverse backgrounds and traditions as well as those who feel disenfranchised by society and Church.

Social Justice

We embrace the Catholic Social Tradition and commit ourselves to act for justice and peace.

Outreach

We honor the Paulist charism of evangelization as we work together to initiate, reconcile, unify and build relationships.

Collaboration

We live out our common Baptism through working together for the Reign of God.

Stewardship

We receive God's gifts gratefully and strive to use them responsibly, generous with our time, talent and treasure.

Education

We appreciate our Catholic faith and work to provide ongoing faith formation for all.



Vision

A VISION FOR THE PAULIST CENTER COMMUNITY: TOWARD 2016

The Paulist Center Community is alive with love as we respond in faith and with joyful hearts to the call to do more and to be more through our commitment to serve. We seek, as Fr. Isaac Hecker (founder of the Paulists) said, to express “old truths in new forms” in our Catholic worship and in our work to build a just society.

Our community is richly graced by lay and ordained, volunteers and staff, who put into practice the value of collaboration and encourage a strong sense of belonging and empowerment. Members gather from various cities and towns in the greater Boston area, from diverse backgrounds and experiences, with different abilities and ways of life. We have many active small communities of faith. In addition, we build on our tradition of Christian hospitality by reaching out to others to join our community, especially those who do not have a spiritual home.

We extend a warm invitation to those seeking to deepen their relationship with God in Christ. We pray with these individuals, teach them about our faith, and help them discern if the Spirit of God is leading them to the Catholic Church.

Our reconciliation ministry nurtures wholeness and unconditional love. We offer a safe space to those harmed or alienated by society or the institutional Church. We provide comfort and gentle guidance toward truth and integrity, pointing to paths of forgiveness, healing, and reconciliation.

We foster mutual respect and stronger connections among all Christians and with people of all faith traditions. We seek, whenever possible, to unite in prayer, in service, and in the cause for justice.

We answer Christ’s call to live the reign of God here and now by acting for justice and promoting peace. Direct service programs, advocacy, education, and socially responsible investing are equally important dimensions of our acts for justice.

Education and spiritual formation programs nourish our hearts, minds, and souls. We encourage multi-generational and life-long faith development. There is an array of lectures and seminars, retreats and prayer opportunities, both on site and on line, that enhance spiritual growth, including an appreciation of Paulist spirituality.

Our principal prayer is the celebration of the Eucharist — inspiring, strengthening, and unifying us. Our vibrant liturgies are rooted in our deep relationship with God. We model full, conscious, and active participation in preaching, reflections, music, and other liturgical ministries.

The Paulist Center Community has an abundance of creativity and talent, reflected in the gifts, energy, and resources of the children, women, and men who gather here. We lovingly challenge each other to give generously, encourage one another toward service and sacrifice, and strive to use all resources appropriately to meet our needs and the needs of those we serve.

In concert with the Paulists, we celebrate the love of God in welcome and outreach, compassion and healing, sacrament and service, justice and peace.



Goals and Objectives

The body is one and has many members, but all the members, many though they are, are one body; and so it is with Christ. It was in one Spirit that all of us, whether Jew or Greek, slave or free, were baptized into one body. All of us have been given to drink of the one Spirit.

(1 Cor. 12:12-13)

"The genius of races or individuals does not modify or add, but serves as an instrument to the development of Christianity. It is the Holy Spirit which finds in their varied capacities the proper appreciation of the revealed truth, and the aptitude of giving them their suitable expression." (Fr. Isaac Hecker, CSP)

GOAL I

TO NOURISH A GROWING, DIVERSE & VIBRANT COMMUNITY OF FAITH

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Create a small community of faith structure where all members are actively involved.
- B. Deepen relationships among current members and involve more community members in the workings of the Center.
- C. Increase public awareness about the Paulist Center Community and grow membership through outreach, especially to elders, GLBT people, people of color, people with disabilities, young adults and families.

I rejoiced when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1)

"The sacraments are nothing else than the channels, or visible means, of communicating the Holy Spirit to the soul. It is the divine action in the Church which gives to its external organization the principle reason for its existence." (Fr. Isaac Hecker, CSP)

GOAL II

TO CELEBRATE LITURGY THAT ENGAGES THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF ALL

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Deepen an understanding of and appreciation for Catholic liturgy among all who worship at the Center.
- B. Encourage thought-provoking, challenging preaching.
- C. Expand and enhance the music ministry to better serve the Paulist Center Community.
- D. Provide on going education to foster well-prepared liturgical ministers.
- E. Foster opportunities for non-Eucharistic liturgies.



Now there are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who works all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these distributing them to each person as God wishes. (1 Cor. 12:4-11)

Rising very early before dawn, Jesus left and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. (Mark 1:35)

Then Peter approaching asked him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often must I forgive them? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. (Matthew 18:21-22)

"Our vocation is apostolic: conversion of souls to the faith, of sinners to repentance, giving missions, defense of the Christian religion by conferences, lectures, sermons, the pen, the press, and the like works: and in the interior, to propagate among men a higher and more spiritual life." (Fr. Isaac Hecker, CSP)

GOAL III

TO DEEPEN AND DEVELOP OUR CATHOLIC AND PAULIST IDENTITIES

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Foster a more engaged relationship between the Paulist Center Community and the Paulists by learning more about Paulist history, ministry, and spirituality as well as strengthening personal connections with Paulists.
- B. Encourage vocations to lay ministry, religious life, and the priesthood, especially to the Paulist Fathers.
- C. Revitalize Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (including children of age of reason).

"Our principal exercise, therefore, should be to place and dispose ourselves in such a way as to receive the influence and devotion of the Holy Spirit." (Fr. Isaac Hecker, CSP)

GOAL IV

TO PROMOTE SPIRITUAL RENEWAL & MEANINGFUL PRAYER

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Contemplate the question: How is the Paulist Center called to be attentive to the Holy Spirit?
- B. Offer a variety of individual and communal prayer opportunities (e.g. Centering Prayer, Charismatic Prayer, Devotional Prayer, Taize Prayer, etc.).
- C. Provide varied retreat experiences.

"Reconciliation springs from the roots of Paulist identity. As people committed to bridge building, Paulists ought to be in the forefront of reconciliation ministry, both to those disposed to return to active practice in the Church and to those whose depths of alienation pose real challenges. New programs and approaches to reconciliation must be developed that are aware of the careful and humble listening that is part of this ministry." (From Mission in an Era of Dramatic Change – a statement from the 2010 Paulist Fathers General Assembly)

GOAL V:

TO FACILITATE HEALING & RECONCILIATION FOR CATHOLICS WHO ARE ALIENATED FROM THE CHURCH

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Create safe spaces where Catholics can explore their experiences of hurt and alienation.



- B. Increase the visibility and impact of the Paulist Center Community Reconciliation Ministry, making it a fully integrated ministry within the Paulist Center's activities.
- C. Continue to invite local and national speakers who highlight the restorative power of reconciliation, forgiveness and healing.
- D. Increase and expand collaboration with the Paulist Fathers National Reconciliation Office.

Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect. (Romans 12:2)

"Our power will be in presenting the same old truths in new forms, fresh new tone and air and spirit." (Fr. Isaac Hecker, CSP)

GOAL VI

TO NURTURE LIFELONG FAITH EDUCATION AND FORMATION

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Strengthen the Family Religious Education Program (FREP).
- B. Provide programming in the areas of scriptural study, theology, Catholic Social Teaching and sacramental preparation.
- C. Create a calendar for 'themed Education' to integrate all education efforts throughout the Center.
- D. Expand the education component of young adult ministry.

Yahweh asks of us only this, to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God. (Micah 6:8)


"Christianity does not confine itself to the reign of God in the soul; it seeks to establish the reign of God upon the earth." (Fr. Isaac Hecker, CSP)

GOAL VII

TO LIVE OUT MORE DEEPLY OUR COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE & OUTREACH

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Develop a comprehensive formation process for outreach, social justice and advocacy.
- B. Celebrate and support members who are working for social justice and outreach in their daily lives.
- C. Strengthen relationships with justice and service organizations as well as with other faith communities in greater Boston.



There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

"The Holy Spirit is at work among Chinese, Muslims and all nations, peoples and tribes, in every rational soul. The love of God, so to speak, compels this." (Fr. Isaac Hecker, CSP)

GOAL VIII
**TO BECOME A LOCAL LEADER IN ECUMENICAL
& INTERFAITH RELATIONS**

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Host ecumenical and interreligious events, prayer services and activities.
- B. Honor and support the interfaith families in the Paulist Center Community.
- C. Provide educational opportunities on world religions.
- D. Develop strategic ecumenical and interfaith partners and partner with other ecclesial communities to sponsor Christian/Jewish/Muslim dialogues on themes like peace, contemplation, justice.

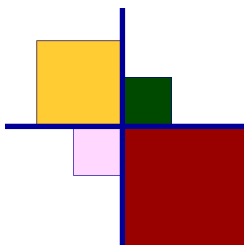
Be hospitable to one another without complaining. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. (1 Peter 4:9-10)

"One challenge before us is that the Holy Spirit is calling us to accomplish our mission more efficiently and creatively in a world of diminished resources. We are fewer in number and older than we once were. A similar challenge is faced by the local churches with whom we partner. . . As our patron, St. Paul, reminds us, 'I can do all things through him who strengthens me.'" (From Mission in an Era of Dramatic Change – a statement from the 2010 Paulist General Assembly)

GOAL IX
**TO BE RESPONSIBLE STEWARDS OF THE PAULIST CENTER'S HUMAN,
FINANCIAL AND FACILITY RESOURCES AND OF THE EARTH**

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Develop a stewardship spirituality for the Paulist Center Community.
- B. Utilize more effectively the gifts and talents of our members.
- C. Conduct a facility review of 5 Park Street in light of the Center's mission, values and vision.
- D. Develop and implement a green program for the Center.





GOALS



2011
2016





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Boston**

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