



“Embracing the Future”

Engaging in this Parish Initiative

WORKSHOP EXERCISES DESCRIPTION

Buy-A-Feature + 20/20 Vision

Introduction: You will participate in a collaborative workshop! We will provide a description of these exercises in-person but this is available for your review now! Once you sign-up for a workshop, you will go through two exercises. The first is called “Buy-A-Feature” and the second is called “20/20 Vision.” These two exercises will help illuminate how your group prioritizes the various parts of St. Joseph’s mission. Your input will help inform St. Joseph’s pastoral focus for the near future!

Buy-A-Feature Description (25 Minutes Total): In the first exercise, you will work with other participants to collectively “buy” the features that are most important for St. Joseph’s mission. Each of you will be given a set amount of St. Joseph “cash” that you can use to buy certain features. You will not have enough cash to purchase a single feature on your own. (In fact, the entire group only has enough money to purchase a fraction of the features that are listed!) You will begin the exercise with five minutes to review your sheet and make your initial investments (if you haven’t already done so). After that you will privately send your initial investments to your facilitator and they will enter the information into a dynamic spreadsheet. After all of the information is uploaded, your facilitator will project the group’s investments. You will have 20 minutes to strategize with your group on how to distribute funds in order to find the right mix of programs that advance St. Joseph’s mission!

Please note that this exercise requires the group to discuss and negotiate in order to purchase these features. Resources are scarce so the discussion may get heated – but please remain patient and charitable with your fellow parishioners! There is a hard stop at the end of the 20-minute group discussion. Your facilitator will only accept the features that are “purchased” at that cutoff – so try not to leave money on the table!

A list and description of these features is included at the end of this document. If possible, please review this list before attending a small group workshop. This will help accelerate the group’s work together and help you make the most of your time with your fellow parishioners!

20/20 Vision Description (10 Minutes Total): In this exercise, you will be asked to further prioritize your group’s “purchased” features. Modeled after an optometrist exam, this exercise will ask the group to compare each of these features on a side-by-side basis and vote on which of these features is more or less important. Your facilitator will take your purchased features and project them onto your screen. Your facilitator will then select an initial feature at random. They will then take the next one and ask your group if it is more or less important than the one on the wall. If it is more important, your facilitator will place it higher. If it is less important, they will put it lower. Your facilitator will repeat this process with all of your feature cards which will eventually lead your group to develop 20/20 vision on what your fellow parishioners really want! All voting



will be done with a “head’s down” approach with anonymous voting. Exact scores will not be reported – only the final result.

ST. JOSEPH FEATURE LIST AND DESCRIPTIONS

These are the parish features that you will prioritize during your “Embracing the Future” group workshop. Where additional explanation may be required, a small description was added below the feature name.

- 1. St. Joseph is known for its beautiful and engaging liturgy and continued tradition of cultural expressions (e.g. gospel music)**
- 2. St. Joseph school is maintained in its current state using existing resources and the site is preserved without change**
- 3. St. Joseph school is expanded to support additional tenants and uses, and increased revenues are used for school preservation and parish operations**

(Additional Description: St. Joseph works with the Diocese to expand the school for additional tenants and uses. This may include additional office space for parish use. Additional tenants would lead to additional revenues for the parish, which could cover the costs of ongoing operations or facility maintenance. However, this option also poses risks and upfront costs. St. Joseph parish would need to raise the money for this expansion and then would be responsible for securing additional tenants and maintaining the expanded facility.)

- 4. St. Joseph generates revenue by leasing a portion of its site to a developer for affordable, workforce, and/or market rate housing; the school is preserved as part of the development**

(Additional Description: In this feature, St. Joseph would lease a portion of its land and/or air rights to a development partner. This lease would generate revenue for the parish and may provide a social mission for underutilized space. The parish would have a narrow range of responsibilities at the beginning of this type of project. The parish would be responsible for a feasibility study and the ultimate selection of a development partner. Once selected, this development partner would handle all or most of the responsibilities associated with developing affordable, workforce, and/or market rate housing on the leased portion of the land. In this scenario, the developer could develop around the school and the parish could use the revenue generated from a lease to preserve the school.)

- 5. St. Joseph Parish emphasizes recruiting younger parishioners to leadership roles within the parish; senior members mentor younger leaders and relinquish their positions at the appropriate time**



SAINT JOSEPH
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6. St. Joseph is reestablished as a personal/national (African American) parish versus territorial parish

(Additional Description: St. Joseph parish was originally established as a national parish. This means that St. Joseph parish did not have a territorial responsibility but rather a personal responsibility, specifically to African Americans. At some point in the past, St. Joseph parish was converted to a territorial parish. This means that St. Joseph's responsibility is no longer national or personal; rather, its responsibility lies within territorial boundaries in Alexandria. Shifting the parish back to a national parish would align its formal mission with its professed focus on the African American experience.)

7. St. Joseph prioritizes evangelization within the neighborhood through increased networking events (e.g. African American museum, Charles Houston Community Center)

(Additional Description: In this feature, St. Joseph would emphasize its territorial responsibilities and focus its efforts on evangelization within the community. This would involve prioritizing partnerships and networking events with local organizations for evangelization and works of mercy.)

8. St. Joseph prioritizes evangelization for former families that have moved outside of parish boundaries

9. St. Joseph is known for its regularly scheduled confessions, adorations, and devotions (e.g. Holy Hours, communal rosaries, etc)

10. Parish has a strong digital presence for evangelization and formation programs

11. St. Joseph is a parish that encourages sharing the African American experience at other parishes through talks and special events

(Additional Description: In this feature, St. Joseph would emphasize sharing the African American experience at other parishes. This could involve identifying and supporting parishioners in offering talks or reflections on their experiences as African American Catholics. It could also involve organizing panel discussions at other parishes that highlight different aspects of the African American experience to build greater understanding amongst other parishes.)

12. St. Joseph encourages participation and involvement in liturgies, workshops, and other events at other parishes for enrichment and fellowship

13. St. Joseph has a visibly strong partnership with the Josephites and Oblate Sisters and prioritizes that relationship to promote the Black Catholic experience