

Dear Friends,

We have a new Parish Mission Statement:

*As Christian disciples we are entrusted with the mission of a renewal of faith through evangelization, catechesis, stewardship and outreach to our diverse community.*

This simple statement says so much about who we are, and what we are called to do. First of all we are Christian disciples. We are followers of Jesus Christ, called by name through baptism, to be members of his body in the world. Specifically, of course, we are Catholic Christians. Our faith is rooted, celebrated and lived out within the context of the Roman Catholic faith.

As Catholic Christians we have an important mission to fulfill. This mission is carried out in different ways with different gifts called *charisms*. I would like to encourage everyone in the parish to think about the importance of our mission statement. This mission is not mine alone. I cannot be the only evangelist. We cannot limit catechesis to our religious education programs. Stewardship means so much more than the amount of money we are willing to offer. Outreach is something all of us can do with gracious hospitality.

Perhaps we do not think of ourselves as missionaries. We do not find ourselves moving away to distant lands to proclaim the Gospel to foreign people. It is hard to imagine ourselves doing the work of missionaries who feed hungry refugees or try to convert native people to our faith. We are, nevertheless, missionaries right here in our own community. We do proclaim the Gospel, even to people who speak our own language. Sometimes we even use words. We do not have to limit the expression of our mission to soapboxes or pulpits. We communicate the Gospel more by how we live our lives.

You will find our mission statement on the cover of our weekly bulletin, and it will start showing up on our website and in our newsletters; we have even put it on our parish stationary. My hope is that very soon we will know this mission statement well, and that together, we will carry it out with generous hearts.

In joyful hope,  
Fr. Tim Seigel