GOALS & OBJECTIVES OF
THE PASTORAL PLAN

for

SAINT ELIZABETH ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Upper Uwchlan Township, PA
September, 2007
Parish Pastoral Plan

Introductory Note:
The purpose of a pastoral plan is to ensure that the activities and programs of the parish are faithful to our parish mission and responsive to the spiritual and pastoral needs of the parish community, now and in the future.

A pastoral plan serves a two-fold purpose: first, the plan is a benchmark to evaluate existing parish activities in light of our fundamental mission as a parish community; and second, the plan guides the introduction of new activities at our parish. Planning goals and objectives provide direction for the commitment of time, money, facilities and personnel to existing and proposed parish activities.

Our parish mission statement was developed by the pastoral council and approved by the pastor in February of 2002. It was formally presented to parishioners on the occasion of our second anniversary as a parish community that July. The mission statement serves as the foundation and touchstone for everything we do and all that we strive to become as a parish community, even as we continue to grow in membership, to expand our pastoral services and activities in response to the needs of parishioners of all ages.

In November of 2004, the parishioners of Saint Elizabeth received a pastoral planning booklet which identified three specific goals to guide the growth and development of our parish community over the following three-to-five years. A copy of the planning booklet is available on the parish website.

During 2005 and 2006, the pastoral council has developed a set of concrete objectives for each of the three planning goals delineated in the pastoral planning booklet. These objectives are presented here in compact form; additional suggestions about how these objectives may be accomplished are included in the presentation of the pastoral plan on the parish website.
Parish Mission Statement

Our mission, together with the Lord, is to build and nourish a holy, faithful community at Saint Elizabeth parish. Our house rests upon the Word and the Sacraments, and its doors will always be open, warmly welcoming all who seek to know and love Jesus Christ in the fullness of our Catholic Faith.

As stewards of the abundant gifts God gives to us, we will freely share them with our brothers and sisters everywhere. We will educate all our generations, and help our youth in their quest for fulfillment as disciples and citizens in today’s world.

By the conviction of our words, the goodness of our deeds and the witness of our lives, we will reflect the presence of Jesus living within us. With the grace of the Holy Spirit we will extend His kingdom everyday, one person at a time.
GOAL ONE
Saint Elizabeth Parish is committed to providing a variety of opportunities for parishioners of all ages to become more knowledgeable and informed about their Catholic faith and about the Catholic Church, and in this way foster the spiritual growth and sacramental life of each parishioner and of our parish community as a whole.

Objective 1
Continue the work of existing committees that further the spiritual growth and sacramental life of the parishioners of Saint Elizabeth.

Objective 2
Sustain and strengthen programs of faith formation for the children and youth of our parish.

Objective 3
Sustain and strengthen programs of faith formation for the adults and young adults of our parish.

Objective 4
Provide a resource library in the parish education center which is accessible to adults and youth.

GOAL TWO
Saint Elizabeth Parish is committed to providing a variety of opportunities for parishioners of all ages to recognize the spiritual and material gifts each of us has been given by God, to cultivate these gifts with the grace of the Holy Spirit, and to share these gifts with others.

Objective 1
Assist parishioners in developing a deeper recognition of the spiritual and material gifts they have been given through ongoing discernment and assessment.

Objective 2
Design and implement opportunities for parishioners to cultivate the spiritual and materials gifts they have been given and to develop a deeper understanding of the fruits their gifts might bear for others.

Objective 3
Identify and communicate to parishioners specific needs for their time, talent and treasure within the parish and our surrounding community so they may share their God-given gifts with others.

GOAL THREE
Saint Elizabeth Parish is committed to providing a variety of opportunities for parishioners of all ages to participate in the Church’s evangelical mission of promoting peace and justice in the world by shaping their everyday lives around the values and convictions of the Gospel.
Objective 1
Live out our faith more fully in our own lives and foster among all our parishioners such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others.

Objective 2
Be a welcoming and inviting parish, one of belonging without exclusivity, marked by a deep sense of togetherness and a ready hospitality towards others.

Objective 3
Be disciples in the world to foster Gospel values in our society, promote the dignity of the human person, the importance of the family, and the common good of our society, so that we may continue to be transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ.
A Parish Stewardship Prayer

Gracious and loving God,
we know that it is from your hand that we receive
all that we have, all that we are, and all that we will be.

We believe that you call us to be the stewards
of the gifts you have entrusted to us.

Help us to respond to your generosity,
by our generosity to all in need;
to respond to your forgiveness,
by our willingness to forgive others.

Lord, as you guide us on our journey,
help us always to place you at the center of our lives
and keep us ever grateful for your constant love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.