

The Vietnamese Catholic Community at St. James Church - Woodbridge, NJ

Ngày mùng 2 tháng 12 năm 2010, cùng với các vị đại diện của các Cộng đoàn thuộc nhiều sắc dân trong Giáo phận Metuchen, dưới sự hướng dẫn của Đức Ông Daniel Herlihy – phụ trách Văn phòng Phối kết các Cộng đoàn trong Giáo phận, cha Quản nhiệm Cộng đoàn đã trình bày các mục tiêu chính của Cộng đoàn trong niên khóa 2011-2012, song song với các chương trình và sinh hoạt nhằm hỗ trợ cho các mục tiêu đã được đề ra. Dưới đây là bản văn đã được gửi lên Tòa Giám mục Giáo phận Metuchen, New Jersey.

I. Goals and Objectives: 2011-2012

There are five major goals for the Vietnamese Catholic Community and specific objectives within each of the goals.

Goal #1: To sustain and promote Spiritual Growth:

- To invite and encourage all the Community members to attend the weekly Vietnamese Mass at 3:00PM.
- To encourage the Community to go for the Confession often.
- The Priest is available at 2:00PM prior to Mass.
- To promote the devotion to Our Lady of LaVang at 2:30PM on every Sunday prior to Mass or Way of the Cross at Lenten season.
- To maintain annual Advent Retreat and Lenten Retreat.
- Will invite priests to perform Reconciliation service for the Community, including bilingual Reconciliation service for Youth.
- To encourage Spiritual Groups to lead the Eucharistic Adoration every first Friday of the month.
- To promote family prayer: each family will register a date to welcome the Virgin Mary and other families in the community to their

- house to pray. The prayer is held every Saturday at 7:30PM, snow or sunshine.
- To fully participate in the Liturgy (Choir, Lectors, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers) of special Feasts of St. James Parish (i.e. Holy Thursday, etc...) and to assist / integrate with St. James Parishioners at special occasions.
- To invite Bishop Paul Bootkoski to be the main celebrant at the Vietnamese New Year Mass on January 29, 2010.
- To enrich Youth Ministry:
 - To provide Youth retreat once per year.
 - To organize Youth Mass 4-6 times per year.
 - To direct and support Youth Choir activities
 - To encourage Youth to reflect and to live the Passion Of Jesus Christ via the Way of the Cross at Lent.
- To encourage spiritual group members (Legio Marie, Catholic Mothers, CLC (Christian Life Community) Youth and Adult Groups to have monthly spiritual meetings to share their living Faith.
- To organize retreats for married couples to enrich their marriage.
- To participate in the annual Pilgrimage to the National Blue Army Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Washington, NJ.

- To encourage and participate in the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land or the Vatican City, Fatima, Lourdes, etc...

Goal #2: To preserve and to present the Vietnamese Culture and Traditions to the Community and especially to the Vietnamese Young Generations Born in America:

- To organize the Vietnamese Cultural Show on the Vietnamese New Year Day. Young people perform traditional dances and sing Vietnamese songs.
- To organize and maintain the Vietnamese Language Classes weekly. The School year starts from September to June.
- To organize the Mid-Autumn Festival, including Talents Show related to traditional Lanterns and ancient Vietnamese stories
- To bring the Vietnamese Culture to the Liturgy:
 - The Adult Choir sing Vietnamese sacred hymns with Vietnamese musical instrument(s) .
 - The Youth Choir sing Vietnamese sacred hymns at Youth Masses.
 - Youth perform religious dances on special Feasts.

Goal #3: To bring the Community Together - Social Concerns

- To organize the Annual Picnic (August 15 – the Assumption of the Virgin Mary). There will be Sunday Mass in the morning and free food, sports, games and entertainment activities throughout the day.
- To schedule pastoral visits (the Chaplain and the Staff) to all Community members in need such as the elderly, the sick, the poor, people who didn't go to Church, families who have someone died, etc...
- To assign Eucharistic Ministers to bring the Eucharist to the elderly and to the sick when and where needed (usually after Sunday Mass).

- To schedule monthly Community Council meeting to review and to plan for activities.
- To promote mutual understanding and feedback from all Community members via a General Meeting once per year.
- To provide opportunities for the Community to read spiritual articles and all the activities via Website: www.cdmetuchen.org.
- To publish the annual Magazine of the Community on the Vietnamese New Year Day.
- To publish the monthly Bulletin at the beginning of the month to inform the Community on the coming activities.

Goal #4: Focus on Faith Formation

- To maintain First Penance and First Communion classes annually.
- To open Confirmation classes when there are candidates.
- To schedule Religious Education for Marriage Ministry and RCIA per request.
- To perform Baptism on 2nd Sunday of the month.
- Parents and Sponsors have to go thru a preparation process.

Goal #5: Emphasize on Stewardship and Sharing

- To organize the Ministry Fair to identify opportunities for Community members to share their talent, time, and treasure
- To call for the generosity of all Community members to share their talent, time, and financial support at common events such as New Year Cultural Show, Retreats, Annual Picnic, Christmas and Easter Celebrations.
- To support St James Parish financially.
- To support Bishop Appeal via St James Church.
- To assist St James Annual Street Fair via Funds Raising.
- To call for the Community to contribute generously for the weekly Collections.

II. Major Important Feasts

- Christmas (December 25, 2010) – There will be Christmas Songs Presentation performed by the Adult Choir and Youth Choir prior to the Mass Celebration.
- Vietnamese New Year Mass (1/29/2011)
- Holy Good Friday (4/22/2011)
- Easter (4/24/2011)
- August 15 – The Assumption of the Virgin Mary – Patron of the Community
- Mass of Remembrance for Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan (9/16/2011)
- All Saints Day (11/1/2011)
- 117 Vietnamese Martyrs (11/24/2011)

III. Ethnic Group Profile Report

- About 180 Vietnamese families register and live in the areas of Central NJ as follows:
 - Piscataway: 46 (families)
 - Edison: 32
 - South Plainfield: 13
 - Metuchen: 10
 - Union: 7
 - Milltown: 7
 - Bound Brook: 6
 - Middlesex: 6
 - Somerset: 5
 - Bridgewater, Carteret, Old Bridge, Perth Amboy, Port Reading, Woodbridge, etc...: less than 5 families.



NHỚ MẸ

Võ thị Tuyết

*Lần cuối con gặp mẹ
Trong chuyến về thăm quê
Xa nhà thu mấy độ
Con vẫn mong dịp về*

*Tha hương càng nhớ mẹ
Mơ ngày về sống bên
Lòng mẹ như biển rộng
Tình bao la mẹ hiền*

*Bao năm rồi cách xa
Biết đâu ngày trở lại
Gặp mẹ lúc tuổi già
Đành khóc thầm thiết tha*

*Sau những năm xa vắng
Nếp da mẹ đã nhăn
Mắt hơi mờ bóng tối
Lòng mẹ sáng như trăng*

*Con dài gót tha hương
Như có mẹ bên đường
Dắt con qua gian khổ
Bàn tay ấm tình thương*

*Tiền con về xát lạy
Lệ mẹ chảy từng dòng
Dẫn dõ con bảo trọng
Buồn xơ xác chiều đông*

*Năm ấy về thăm mẹ
Đâu ngờ lần cuối cùng
Tin mẹ biệt trần thế
Đau xé nát cõi lòng*

*Hôm nay ngày giỗ mẹ
Nhớ mẹ trên trời cao
On sâu sao đèn đáp
Nén hương thấp lè trôi*