

# ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

## PARISH SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT

### WE WALK BY FAITH



1009 Virginia Ave NW Norton, VA 24273  
Church Tel. No. 276-679-2336  
Rectory Tel. No. 276-523-1602

Parish Priest: Father Tim Drake  
Parish Contact Person: Beverly Willis-276-395-3063

August 2009

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

St. Anthony's Parish and its Pastoral Council Mission is to glorify God by actively cooperating with the Holy Spirit in elevating all aspects of our shared humanity to the image and likeness of Christ. Under the patronage of St. Anthony of Padua, we seek to do this by building a vibrant and welcoming Christian community, a reverent and active participation in liturgical worship, and by becoming better informed about our Christian faith and being formed in that faith. Furthermore, we shall promote greater commitment among ourselves to make God's righteousness and peace evident in both our local and global societies, by sharing our time, talent, and treasure with our neighbor and by being open to dialogue with other faith communities.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

St. Anthony's Catholic Church was established in Norton, VA in 1938. The original church was built in the mid 1930's and served by priests of the Diocese of Wheeling. In 1945, the Glenmary Fathers, Brothers, and Sisters began to serve St. Anthony's and the other parishes of far southwest Virginia. In 1948, the Sisters, Poor Servants of the Mother of God opened a local hospital called St. Mary's. Other religious have also served in the parish over the years. In 1972, a new parish hall and in 1977, a new church were built. In 1979, Glenmary entrusted St. Anthony's to the pastoral care of the Diocese of Richmond.

St. Anthony's includes the city of Norton, and part of the surrounding county of Wise reaching to the state of Kentucky. Included in the parish is the county courthouse and the University of Virginia, College at Wise in the town of Wise, and the town of Pound. Some parishioners also attend from Big Stone Gap and Coeburn for various reasons. There are also two super max prisons, Red Onion and Wallens Ridge. This parish is ethnically diverse, with African American, Asian, and Hispanic, and White members attending Mass each Sunday.

**The Demographic information includes the following:**

-Registered families        67  
-Registered members       158

-Women                        73  
-Men                             48  
-Children                       37

**Age Groups**

-Under 13                      30  
-13-17                          07  
-18-30                          18  
-31-59                          59  
-60 plus                         44

## **Ethnicity**

-Asian	43
-African American	05
-Hispanic	27
-White	77
-Other	06

## **II. WORD**

### **Strengths**

- CCD– Catechists teach children every Sunday from preschool through high school age.
- RCIA classes are held weekly
- Adult-Ed classes are offered throughout the year after Sunday Mass

### **Needs**

- There is a need for classes for college students and other young adults
- The cluster needs to be more involved in our CCD program, the only one in the cluster.
- We need e-mail and phone trees to communicate information
- We need more catechists on Sunday and for sacrament prep for all ages.
- We need to follow the links on the Diocesan web site to the various Diocesan Offices.
- We need to develop an evangelical program for reaching out to the larger community.

## **III. WORSHIP**

### **Strengths**

- Mass is offered in various locations and partly in Spanish for the convenience of parishioners.
- A special liturgy of the word and choir are provided for children as well as prep for altar servers.
- Catholic devotions such as a monthly Eucharistic prayer vigil, rosary, and Stations of the Cross are available.
- The Sacrament of Penance is available weekly.

### **Needs**

- More priests are needed to serve in the cluster.
- Campus Ministry needs to be instituted.
- More familiar hymns need to be used to encourage participation.
- We need to broaden Mass Intercessions to be more personal and community oriented, and to address current events.
- We need to explain the Mass, to those in attendance, who are not Catholic.

## **IV. COMMUNITY**

### **Strengths**

- We host the ecumenical Thanksgiving meal preparation.
- We take part in cluster celebrations of Penance, Holy Week, picnic, and planning meetings.
- We provide hospitality food and drink after Sunday Masses.
- We attend Norton City Council and other civic meetings.

### **Needs**

- We need to restore the international potluck suppers

- We need to serve breakfast after Mass in the parish hall
- There needs to be outreach to returning Catholics and Catholics new to the area.
- There needs to be campus ministry outreach to the University of Virginia's College at Wise.
- We need to develop electronic outreach to the Hispanic community.

## **V. SERVICE**

### **Strengths**

- We take part in the ecumenical Thanksgiving meal and receptions after funerals.
- There is St. Anthony's Neighborhood Fund for assistance with fuel bills.
- We have a food pantry collection.
- There is visitation of the sick and the imprisoned.
- We provide the parish hall for Advocacy Center, Catholic Charities, and Knights of Columbus meetings.

### **Needs**

- More people are needed to visit the sick, send greeting cards, make phone calls, etc
- There needs to be outreach to the missions such as Sr. Gabriela's in Kenya.
- We need to send care packages to members in the military and away at college.
- We need to learn the Church's social teaching.
- We need an ongoing report of what community organizations our members are involved.

## **VI. PLANS FOR RENEWAL AND MEETING PARISH NEEDS**

### **For the next year**

- We will begin an adult Bible study
- We will seek to make CCD a cluster program rather than for our parish alone.
- We will develop email and phone trees
- We will recruit more CCD teachers
- We will promote our parish web site.
- We will promote the Virginia Catholic Conference.

### **For the next five years**

- We will develop a college campus ministry program.
- We will evaluate our parish visual and audio media system.
- We will address the remaining needs listed in this document in a new self-assessment report.

## **VII. DIOCESAN SUPPORT**

- We will seek Diocesan help in recruiting a faculty representative from UVA Wise and forming that person for ministry.
- We will seek more ministries of seminarians in the parish and cluster.
- We will seek help in preparing teens for marriage and adult life.
- We will have continued formation for pastor and catechists.
- We will use Diocesan media resources.