



SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

NEXT STEPS FOR
PRIESTS · **PROPHETS** · **KINGS**

CL

The Roman numerals for "150."

C = 100

L = 50

This booklet uses CL for every variation of 150 –

150

150th

Sesquicentennial

150th anniversary

Etc.

Next Steps for St. Joseph's Priests, Prophets and Kings

October 25, 2015
St. Joseph Church

Dear Friends in Christ:

Jesus' very first public words refer to a "Jubilee Year."

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me ... to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." (Luke 4)

What did Jesus mean by a "year acceptable to the Lord?" He was quoting Isaiah 61, which in turn quotes Leviticus 25.

"You shall treat this fiftieth year as sacred . . . each of you shall return to your own land . . . This fiftieth year is your year of jubilee . . . It shall be sacred for you . . . each of you shall return to your land."

Today we enter our third "fiftieth year." And as our ancestors returned to their land, the symbol of their covenant with God, we return to the symbol of our covenant, our baptisms. A year of return to our baptisms is surely "a year acceptable to the Lord."

How do we "return to our baptisms?" We return by doing two simple things. First, we remember the promises made at our baptisms. Chief among them is the promise "to remain forever a member of Christ who is priest, prophet and king." Second, we recommit ourselves to fulfilling those remembered promises.

As priests we are people of prayer. As prophets we are people who serve by consoling and challenging others. As kings we are people who build the community. Our jubilee year is thus a year to recommit ourselves to our lives of prayer, service and community building. It is a year to take a next step in each domain.

This booklet, "Next steps for St. Joseph's Priests, Prophets and Kings" makes those steps easy. Part I focuses on next steps in prayer, Part II on service and Part III on community building. Each part clarifies two challenges and easy ways to satisfy them.

May the Spirit of the Lord descend mightily upon us. May our CL year be one of inspired next steps. May this year fill us with gratitude to God.

Fr. Hank

PART II: NEXT STEPS FOR PROPHETS

Our baptisms not only make us members of “the priesthood of all the baptized,” they call us to imitate all the prophets, but especially Jesus.

As prophets, we follow the example of the Old Testament prophets who serve God's people by consoling and challenging. Our baptisms call us to imitate the Major Prophets – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel – and the Minor Prophets – Hosea, Amos and the rest. Most of all, our baptisms call us to console and challenge as Jesus did.

Members of St. Joe's already console in marvelous ways, by habitually “speaking to the weary the words that can rouse them,” by helping to mend broken hearts on the playground, in hospitals, at funeral homes, at Starbucks, at homeless shelters, at all manner of workplaces, and dozens of other places. You console the broken hearted through your words and, more importantly, through your actions.

The same is true of your efforts to challenge the misdirected. You do it in many places and many ways. You sometimes speak the challenging word and, far more frequently, you present a challenging example. Your actions and the peace they yield dare the misdirected to make better choices. You are fine prophets.

Each of us is also a prophet positioned to take a next step in our efforts to serve others as an agent of Christ's consolation and challenge. The “150 POINTS-OF-LIGHT PROGRAM” provides one terrific option for taking next steps along the ways of consoling and challenging. The “150 NEXT MINISTERIAL STEPS” program provides another.

B) THE THIRD CL CHALLENGE:

TAKE A NEXT STEP IN SERVICE IN THE 150 POINTS-OF-LIGHT (POL) PROGRAM

Some efforts to console and challenge are best pursued through current ministries. Others are best pursued as new initiatives. The “POL Challenge” fosters the latter.

THE THIRD CL CHALLENGE:

TAKE A NEXT STEP IN SERVICE IN THE 150 POINTS-OF-LIGHT (POL) PROGRAM

COMPLETE ONE POINTS-OF-LIGHT PROJECT

Next Steps for St. Joseph's Priests, Prophets and Kings

1) What is the "150 POINTS OF LIGHT PROGRAM (POL)?"

150 POL is a year-long program coinciding with our CL celebration. 150 POL invites every parishioner to serve our Millstone, Hillsborough, Somerset County and New Jersey communities by undertaking a new service project. 150 POL is our parish's gift to the places we call "home."

2) Who can take part?

Every parishioner is encouraged to participate, regardless of age or current level of parish involvement. The service projects can be completed by individuals, families, ministries, neighbors, CCD classes or any other parish-related group. Non-parishioners are welcomed to take part as well.

3) What will the service projects be?

That's up to the individuals/families/groups that commit to completing them. We hope 150 POL will spur conversations around family dinner tables or at ministry meetings. The projects can be big or small and can benefit individuals, groups or places (e.g., local parks or schools).

If your project will benefit an organization, you will want to check to be sure that it is something the recipient organization currently welcomes.

If you are not sure of a worthy service project, don't worry, help is available. This booklet's next section supplies dozens of examples to kick start your imagination. And of course, our Social Ministries Office can help spark great ideas.

All ideas are possible winners. If you have any questions please send an email to 150pointsoflight@stjosephsparish.com

4) How do I/we sign up for a project?

Families, groups and individuals will fill out a short form that describes their planned project. (Copies of that form are supplied on this booklet's last page.) Once received, a sheet summarizing the project will be displayed in the church gathering space. After a few weeks in the gathering space, these sheets will move into the Memorial Hallway where they will remain on display for the entire CL year. We ask that you take a photo of

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the group at the project site which will be attached to the summary sheet upon completion of the project.

It is the responsibility of each group to ensure their project adheres to all laws and is performed in a safe manner.

5) When can the projects begin?

How about today? Some groups have already committed and are getting ready to go. The timing of each project will be determined by the person/group running the project.

6) What are some of the projects that are already planned?

- Lew Family – Collect children's winter coats to benefit Somerset Food Bank.
- Holecomb Dr. Families – Clean up Amsterdam Rd– 3x over the course of the year.
- Irwin Family – Prepare meals for the Samaritan Homeless Interim Program.
- Personal Tutors, LLC (Steve Abuschinow) – Offer 20 hours of free tutoring for needy students at Hillsborough library.
- Laffoon Family – Host inner city child for a summer week, through Fresh Air Fund.
- Nursery Ministry – Host a fun Saturday morning for kids in December (in parish Hall) so their parents can prepare for Christmas.
- Prince CCD Class – Make and deliver 150 sandwiches to Elijah's Promise.
- Carter Family – Prepare meals and work with kids at Agape House (Somerville).
- 2nd Grade CCD Classes – Create greeting cards to be sent to homebound parishioners, patients at St. Peter's Hospital, residents at Bridgeway Care and U.S. servicemen serving overseas.
- Lanahan Family – Wrap Christmas gifts with American Corp. Council gift wrappers.
- Fr. Hank – Host and help Hillsborough clergy's effort to help stem suicides at HHS.
- Seelig Family – Beautify and maintain plant bed in upper Amsterdam Park.
- Maryanne Calandra – Knit blankets for the Wounded Warrior Project.

Many of these projects are already in motion. Others will start soon.

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7) What are some other ideas for POL projects?

Our Elders

- Adopt a "grandfriend."
- Get an elderly neighbor to church.
- Shop for a homebound Senior.
- Teach Seniors how use the internet.
- Shovel snow off a Senior's walk.
- Rake a Senior's leaves.

Our Homeless

- Help take the homeless census.
- Collect and distribute coats.
- Cook for SHIP (Samaritan Homeless Interim Program in Somerville).
- Spruce up SHIP's picnic area.
- Serve at Elijah's Promise (New B'wick).

Our Youth

- Tutor kids through Catholic Charities.
- Volunteer for Big Brothers/Big Sisters.
- Collect children's books for the needy.

Our People with Special Needs

- Help at Special Olympics (local or state).
- Beautify a group home's yard.
- Volunteer at Somerset ARC.
- Sponsor a child at Camp Jontoni.
- Volunteer or cleanup at Camp Jontoni
- Eat lunch the same day each week with a classmate with special needs.

Our Babies

- Staff the Pregnancy Aid Center's phone.
- Collect baby clothes for single mothers.
- Rock a baby at the S'ville baby center.
- Knit or crochet baby blankets.

Our Neighborhoods

- Plant 150 bulbs in your common area.
- Adopt-a-park
- Adopt a pothole.

Our Military

- Support Wounded Warriors, Operation Shoe Box, Operation Gratitude, Hero Miles, or Operation Kid Comfort.
- Become a military pen pal.

Our Holidays

- Send birthday cards to Avalon residents.
- Sort and deliver Thanksgiving and Christmas food donations.
- Gather Halloween costumes for children living in shelters.

Our Incarcerated

- Send birthday cards and Christmas cards to children of the incarcerated.
- Help prepare those in jail or recently released for GED.
- Become a pen pal to a person in jail.

Our Urban Poor

- Help adults overcome illiteracy.
- Volunteer for Catholic Heart Work Camp, Catholic Volunteer Network, ServiceWorX, Habitat for Humanity.
- Ring the bell for Salvation Army.
- Paint over graffiti.
- Get used sports equipment and books from your street to poor city kids.

Our Disasters

- Mobilize your neighborhood's giving when a natural disaster strikes our country or elsewhere.
- Prevent local disasters by trimming branches away from traffic signs.

Next Steps for St. Joseph's Priests, Prophets and Kings

C) THE FOURTH CL CHALLENGE:

TAKE A NEXT STEP IN SERVICE BY HELPING AN EXISTING MINISTRY

Our parish's ministry directory describes an inspired collection of ministries. Our efforts to serve others – within the parish and beyond our parish – are terrifically varied. Those efforts are also vibrant.

And like all robust parish ministries, ours are well aware of the help they need to carry on Jesus' work even more effectively. Their CL requests for help, listed below, form the heart of the fourth CL challenge.

THE FOURTH CL CHALLENGE:

TAKE A NEXT STEP IN SERVICE BY HELPING AN EXISTING MINISTRY

HELP SATISFY ONE MINISTRY'S REQUEST FOR HELP

Our Existing Priestly Ministries

(Ministries that help people pray)

The Lazarus Ministry (Funeral Ministry)

- 1) Print programs for each funeral.
- 2) Send sympathy cards to families.
- 3) Call families after funerals to follow up.
- 4) Recruit more adult servers for funerals.
- 5) Create ministry to staff wakes.
- 6) Provide post-funeral luncheons.

Sacristans

- 7) Recruit one new sacristan for each Sunday Mass and two for Saturday.
- 8) Recruit at least one sacristan under age 30 for each Mass.
- 9) Provide ministry enrichment and training for current and new sacristans.
- 10) Improve organization of both sacristies.

Lectors for Sunday Mass

- 11) Recruit 3 new lectors for each Mass.

- 12) Offer spiritual enrichment for lectors.
- 13) Create new ways for parishioners to have special intentions read.

Altar, Sanctuary and Plant Care

- 14) Recruit at least five new members to care for indoor and outdoor plants.
- 15) Help volunteers learn about church norms for decorating sanctuaries.
- 16) Replace aging banners.
- 17) Provide prayer books for special needs.

Eucharistic Ministers: Carrier Clinic

- 18) Recruit eight new members to bring the Eucharist to Carrier Clinic.
- 19) Provide semi-annual get-togethers for Carrier EMs to process and socialize.
- 20) Have a St. Joe's deacon/spiritual leader.

Eucharistic Ministers: Home Visits

- 21) Find person to lead ministry.
- 22) Recruit five new EMs to visit homes.

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- 23) Provide periodic training and enrichment for home visitors.
- 24) Explore possibilities of establishing a "Stephen's Ministry" at St. Joe's.

Eucharistic Ministers: B'way and Avalon.

- 25) Provide music for communion services.
- 26) Find parishioners to lead rosaries for residents.
- 27) Recruit 8 youths to facilitate prayer groups, bible readings and storytelling.

Eucharistic Ministers: Sunday Mass

- 28) Recruit and train 20 new EMs.
- 29) Provide semi-annual mornings of enrichment for all EMs.

Ushers

- 30) Recruit 4 new ushers for Saturday 4:45.
- 31) Recruit 4 new ushers for Sunday 6:00.
- 32) Renew usher training for defibrillator.
- 33) Teach all ushers emergency systems.
- 34) Add at least one new hospitality process/task for Sunday Masses.

Altar Servers

- 35) Recruit/train 20 new servers (gr. 4-12).
- 36) Create teams of altar servers.
- 37) Enhance system for scheduling servers so all teams serve at all Masses.
- 38) Identify and empower seasoned servers.
- 39) Provide trips to reward junior servers.
- 40) Provide trips to reward seasoned servers.

Music: Sunday Mornings (9:30 and 11:30)

- 41) Recruit 8 new singers and musicians.
- 42) Provide semi-annual Spiritual enrichment sessions for musicians.
- 43) Spiritual Programs for music ministers.
- 44) Open summer choir to entire parish.

Music: Sunday Evenings (6:00)

- 45) Recruit 4 new singers and musicians.
- 46) Provide semi-annual Spiritual enrichment sessions for musicians.

Prayer Chain

- 47) Recruit at least 8 new members.
- 48) Have prayer meeting for members and anyone with interest.

Our Existing Prophetic Ministries

(Ministries that console and challenge people and cultivate faith)

Youth Ministry

- 49) Increase high school students' participation in all liturgical ministries.
- 50) Recruit five new adults to participate in youth ministry.
- 51) Keep parish informed of youth ministry's activities.
- 52) Host a dinner dance for adults with special needs.
- 53) Create network of pen pals -- parish's Senior Citizens and our college students.
- 54) Formalize the parish process for sending new students off to college.
- 55) Honor graduating high school students who have been active at church.
- 56) Create system to stay in touch with college students.
- 57) Increase youth and adult participation in Catholic Heart Work Camp.

Walking with Purpose (Women's Bible)

- 58) Offer a daytime class.
- 59) Offer childcare.
- 60) Engage MMOG and Christian churches.

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)

- 61) Provide spiritual growth for volunteers.

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- 62) Introduce IHN ministry members to other social concerns ministries.
- 63) Have St. Joe's host homeless families for 2 weeks in summer rather than 1.
- 64) Lift number of Virtus-trained members.

Religious Education

- 65) Create "Religious Education and Formation Committee" to evaluate and support religious education program.
- 66) Provide movie nights for young people.
- 67) Make Pottery Workshop a yearly event.
- 68) Recruit teachers earlier in cycle.
- 69) Offer spiritual enrichment for teachers.
- 70) Develop ways to thank teachers.
- 71) Expand services for children with special needs.
- 72) Advance the "Kindness Project."
- 73) Convene teachers to swap ideas.
- 74) Reconciliation/Adoration for children.

Programs for People with Special Needs.

- 75) Improve email list and communication.
- 76) Thank people who provide parties.
- 77) Recruit 10 volunteers to serve program.

Our Existing Kingly Ministries

(Ministries that build the community and enable it to function)

Parish Pastoral Council

- 78) Overhaul parish communications (web page, email, all social media).
- 79) Expand programs for children and teens.
- 80) Create "Religious Education and Formation Committees" as a committee of the Parish Council, to evaluate and support religious education program.
- 82) Explore possibilities to expand adult ed.

Parish Finance Council

- 81) Enhance partnership with Parish Council
- 82) Explore best practices at other parishes and throughout diocese.
- 83) Improve flow of financial information to the entire parish.

Money Counters

- 84) Recruit at least six new money counters for Mondays and two more for Sundays.
- 85) Provide ushers with new collection baskets.

Buildings & Grounds

- 86) Recruit three new members from the trades, with experience in physical plant management or engineering.
- 87) Establish priorities for repairs and improvements.
- 88) Establish reliable vendor lists – i.e., lists of preferred plumbers, electricians, contractors, etc.
- 89) Create an IT group.
- 90) Create a Grounds Management group.

Grocery Card Sales

- 91) Recruit 8 more volunteers to sell cards.
- 92) Increase advertising for grocery cards.

Somerset Patriots Concession Ministry

- 93) Recruit 20 new people to help staff 2-4 games each.
- 94) Recruit 10 people to be part of the core group – i.e., the group that works at least seven of the eleven games.

Knights of Columbus

- 95) Recruit many new members.
- 96) Enhance efforts for social justice.
- 97) Invigorate the soccer shoot-out.
- 98) Energize young Knights program.

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99) Have at least 25 Virtus-trained Knights.

100) Increase number of fish fries.

Priestly Ministries We Could Use

101) Give Senior Citizens rides to church.

102) Hold regular Benediction.

103) Start men's bible study.

104) Provide a spiritual speaker series.

105) Offer social justice speakers.

106) Assist with bible studies in prisons.

107) Organize weekend retreats.

108) Hold vespers for major holydays.

109) Provide a religious movie series.

110) Offer post-funeral prayer support.

111) Help Caregivers pray.

112) Use parish internet and email to request emergency prayers.

Prophetic Ministries We Could Use

113) Provide rides to dialysis.

114) Provide rides to cancer treatments.

115) Clean homes of people in dialysis or cancer treatment.

116) Provide meals for families with a member in cancer treatment.

117) Start a prison ministry.

118) Provide gifts for children of people in jail.

119) Create a marriage ministry.

120) Offer Valentine dinner evening with speaker on uplifting marriage.

121) Offer retreats for couples.

122) Offer "date nights" for married couples at church, with dinner and speakers.

123) Start a speaker series for couples in healthy marriages.

124) Start a speaker series for couples in

troubled marriages (to be held at a remote location).

125) Get "Retroville" to St. Joe's.

126) Start an annulment ministry – people who have been through the process help people going through it.

127) Improve outreach to homebound.

128) Get weekly bulletins to homebound.

129) Support caregivers of homebound.

130) Use parish email to help parishioners find caregivers.

131) Expand outreach to young parents.

132) Reactivate mothers' group.

133) Start young father's group.

134) Expand parish athletic programs.

135) Convene widows and widowers.

136) Provide support for children who have lost parents and parents who have lost children.

137) Expand new parishioners' ministry to include dinners.

138) Use parish internet and email to mobilize immediate response to natural disasters.

Kingly Ministries We Could Use

139) Recreation programs for Seniors.

140) Local touring options for Seniors.

141) Church-cleaning brigades.

142) Yard cleaning brigades.

143) Parking lot clean up brigades.

144) Forest clean up brigades.

145) Holiday decorating brigades.

146) Holiday clean up brigades.

147) Donuts after more masses.

148) Cheese and crackers after the 4:45.

149) Cheese and crackers after the 6:00

150) Thursday night beer ministry.

When you settle on a commitment, contact the ministry that interests you or email ministries@stjosephsparish.com

PART IV: LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

We are able to celebrate our CL jubilee year because of those who have gone before us. Since the October after Grant and Lee met at Appomattox, since the decade when Pope Pius IX convened the first Vatican Council, clarified the idea of papal infallibility and surrendered the Papal States, since the time when New Jersey was home to fewer than one million people (vs. nine million today), St. Joe's parishioners have been praying, serving and building community.

Think for a moment of our parish's CC anniversary, and beyond that, its CCL and CCC. The people of those eras will, God willing, look back and bless what we are doing this year, the parish's CL, just as we look back with gratitude to those who gave us the gifts we enjoy today, to those who celebrated the parish's first Mass, to those who celebrated the L and the C and the CXV.

For our parish ancestors we can pray:

*Eternal rest grant unto them oh Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed,
Through the mercy of God, rest in Peace. Amen.*

For ourselves we can pray:

*Lord, teach us to be generous, to serve you as you deserve,
To give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds,
To toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to seek for reward,
Save that of knowing we are doing Your will.*

For those who will celebrate the next great milestones we can pray:

*Lord, please bless them and keep them,
Let Your face shine upon them and be gracious to them.
Look upon them kindly and give them peace.
And may we bequeath to them the parish community You desire for them.*

150 POINTS-OF-LIGHT PROPOSAL

Project Team Name _____

Project Team Coordinator _____

Coordinator's email _____

Coordinator's phone _____

Project Description:

** It is the responsibility of the project team coordinator to ensure that all local laws are adhered to and that the project is completed in a safe manner.

** Please email this form to 150pol@stjosephsparish.com, fax to 908 431 5252 or drop off in the Gathering Space in the 150 POL box.