

At Our Lady of Hope we are working towards the development of a stronger sense of belonging and ownership for all members of our parish community. We all desire a parish community we can be proud of. We would like to see an increase in weekly Mass attendance within an end-goal of increasing our active lay ministry to 25% of our membership.

The activity in our parish has increased dramatically in the past five years. Just look at the bulletin, filled with events, activities and bible studies for all ages. Outreach, adult formation, youth group, music ministry, the six o'clock evening Mass, the Lenten retreat- as you can see much progress has been made towards our goal of becoming a flourishing parish. Attendance at courses offered during the Advent and Lenten seasons has been strong and we anticipate and increase in numbers for the upcoming Lenten offerings.

Currently we have 1,322 families listed on our Parish registry. This database is being updated and should be completed by June 2007. Using the data available right now, approximately 786 people attend Mass each week, on average - about 24% of our registered parishioners. Ideally, if 25% of parishioners attending Mass weekly, were volunteering on a regular basis, we would have approximately 200 parishioners serving in our church community. Currently, we have approximately 150 lay ministers serving as CCD teachers, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, ushers, altar servers, and in the music ministry. Others volunteer for hospitality committees and planning committees. Parishioners volunteer to serve on the Pastoral and Finance Councils, St. Vincent de Paul Society and with the Catholic Women's Guild. We have youth ministry volunteers of all ages, and members who serve as parish's representatives to Archdiocesan initiatives such as The Men's and Women's Conference and the St. Andrew's Project (?). We need to acknowledge that many of our parishioners volunteer in more than one capacity, willing to give their time and talent wherever it is needed and whenever it is requested. The number of volunteers who have made a commitment on a weekly or monthly basis has increased slightly in the past two years.

We have set a goal to increase weekly mass attendance and grow our core base of parish lay ministers, participating in all aspects of parish life, by 25%, by the year 2010. Based on the data currently available to us, we would like to see weekly Mass attendance increase by 200 parishioners by the year 2010, and our volunteer core grow by an additional 50 volunteers. This process has already begun in many ways.

We are reaching out, personally, to people, promoting events such as the Men's and Women's Conference, by word of mouth and personal invitation. Also, by including parishioners in the planning of our Lenten retreat and formatting the retreat in a way that allowed people time to share and connect as neighbors and as Christian brothers and sisters. Parishioners who have participated in the Retreat and other offerings, such as Alpha and the Little Rock Bible Studies have strengthened our parish through their witness and support of one another. As a

parish we have grown deeper in our faith and stronger in our commitment to our Catholic identity because of these shared experiences.

The addition of the six o'clock Mass on Sunday evening has brought together a diverse group of parishioners who are able to share fellowship following each Mass. Initially, this Mass was created to attract younger adults. Certainly, the music and unique blend of musicians and structure of the Mass, including the use of our beautiful marble altar wall to display music and meditations, has created a very special experience that is appreciated and admired by many within our parish and surrounding communities. Word of this Mass has traveled from family to family and town to town. Again, offering another opportunity for people to worship together.

Our mission statement compels us: **call forth more of our members to ministry and service and seek to help one another to grow closer to the Lord.** As we seek to increase our membership and grow our parish in number, we honor the work that is being done by a core group of parishioners to help our parish grow and make Our Lady of Hope a **welcoming community of faith, hope, and charity – committed to Jesus Christ and to his gospel.**