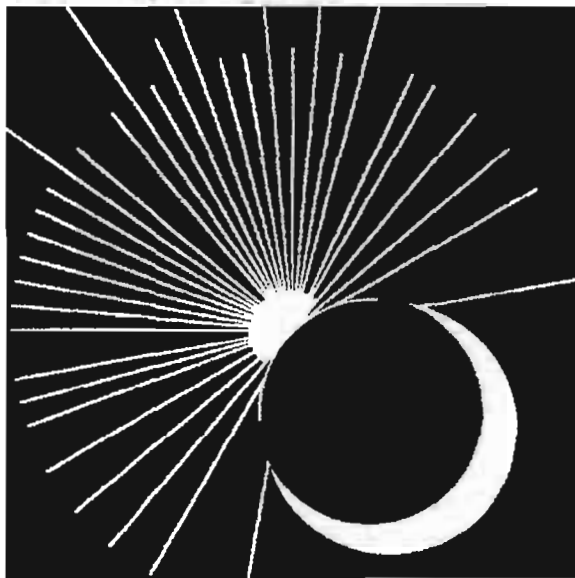


CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

ASSUMPTION

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A Commitment
Of Faith

The CASE Statement Report

Dear Parishioner:

I am pleased to write this letter of introduction to report the results of "Assumption 2000" to the parishioners of Assumption Parish.

Several months ago, you read in the bulletin and heard from the pulpit that a decision was made to do a "case study", a self-study of Assumption Parish. The purpose of the study would be to see where we are and where we hope to be in five or ten years, thus the name "Assumption 2000". We wanted to collect the hopes and dreams of as many parishioners as we could so that we might plan for the future and not simply react as the future unfolds. In this process, we gave parishioners an opportunity to be a part of the study. Finally, we set a rigid schedule so that our study could be completed and the results sent to all parishioners by the end of June.

Enclosed is the result of the intense study that has gone on for the past several months. I am truly grateful to Rick Reder and Butch Homoelle, who led the study, along with the Chairpersons and Co-Chairpersons of the eight committees. A sincere thank you is also offered to all the committee members and to all parishioners and staff who took time to share their thoughts and dreams.

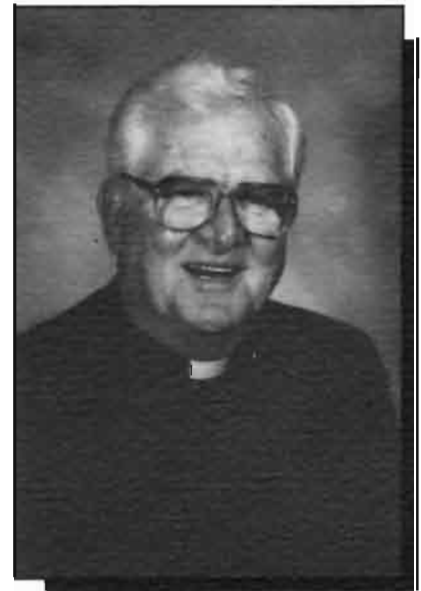
The findings of "Assumption 2000" have generated many constructive ideas, some of which have already been implemented. One of the most significant findings discovered by our work is the need for a Capital Campaign for the improvement of our parish.

I hope you will take time to read this report. If you have any thoughts or reactions to it, please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the persons whose names appear in the report.

All of us can take satisfaction in the knowledge that we are preparing for the future of Assumption Parish, as far as that is humanly possible. May God continue to bless our efforts and enable us to be open to His Will.

Sincerely,

Rev. Francis G. Lammeier
Pastor



Dear Fellow Parishioner

In March of 1991, as outgoing president of the Assumption Athletic Association, I was asked to be part of an ad hoc committee to investigate the possibility of Assumption parish constructing an all-purpose building. The main purpose of this building would be to support youth sports activities and provide a facility for a physical education program at the school. In the ensuing meetings that took place, there was much discussion about whether such a building could be funded by the Parishioners of Assumption, what other activities it could support, how it would be maintained, where it would be built, etc. After several meetings that failed to provide any clear cut direction, the ad hoc committee invited Mr. Ken Barlag to Assumption with the hope that he might be able to give some insight and provide some focus to this effort. It became readily evident that, while an all purpose building might be good for the parish, how it was to be equipped, what functions it would serve and whether it was the most pressing item needed for the Parish could not be determined without input from the entire Parish. It was at this point that the committee made the decision to proceed with a Case Study for Assumption Parish. Thus the birth of Assumption 2000 — A Commitment of Faith occurred.



This report contains the findings of that study. Your comments are most appreciated. Remember that this study represents a long term plan for Assumption that was put together by many Parishioners — a plan that will not be realized without the hard work, dedication, and efforts of all Parishioners. We ask for your prayers for a successful implementation of the findings and recommendations of this program, but most of all, we ask for your participation in realizing many of its goals — goals that will benefit the entire Parish for years to come.

Sincerely

Butch Homoelle
Chairman, Assumption 2000

The Growth and Development of The Church of the Assumption

In 1854, Mr. Joseph Hechinger, one of the prominent pioneers of Catholicism in Cincinnati, called a meeting of Catholics residing in Mt. Pleasant. There were thirty Catholic families who responded to this invitation to discuss the formation of a new parish. They were indeed zealous but poor, ready and willing to make every possible sacrifice to accomplish their high ideals of erecting a church. Mr. Hechinger built the first church for the Catholics of Mt. Pleasant at a cost of \$1,500. The church was dedicated on August 5, 1855.

In 1858, a 2½ story frame building was erected north of the church, to be used as a Catholic school. In 1865, Fr. Herman Johanning, the pastor who succeeded the first resident pastor, Fr. J.G. Nordmeyer, urged the people to consider building a new church. With the permission of Archbishop John B. Purcell, Fr. Johanning began to solicit donations and loans throughout the Archdiocese.

A new school was erected in 1908, at a cost of \$18,000. Part of the new building served as a residence for the Sisters of Divine Providence who were teaching in the school. Many parishioners had objected to building such a large school to educate 85 pupils, but it was not long before it, too, proved to be inadequate. In 1917, a new rectory was completed, the last of Fr. Roesener's building projects.

Fr. Francis B. Sieve succeeded Fr. Roesener as pastor of Assumption on March 21, 1921. He soon realized the needs of a growing parish. In 1930, Fr. Sieve began a campaign for funds for a new school, hoping to build the fund to sufficient proportions to enable him to complete construction. But Fr. Sieve died on August 3, 1947, without realizing his dream of a new school.

On September 1, 1947, Fr. William P. O'Connor became pastor, and, with the consent of Archbishop McNicholas, various plans were submitted for the location of a new school and other parish facilities. That summer, Fr. O'Connor added increased facilities to the Assumption auditorium on Elizabeth Street.

On September 1, 1948, Fr. O'Connor was succeeded by Fr. Edward G. Depenbrock. That same year, the parish purchased a 4-apartment building at Joseph and Hill Streets for use as the nuns' residence. On May 28, 1950, the dedication and blessing of the new school took place.

It was September 10, 1953, when the property immediately across the street from church at McMakin and Joseph Streets was purchased for parish use.

Fr. Francis Heider succeeded Fr. Depenbrock as pastor in 1956, and supervised the last major construction projects undertaken by the parish. The present school building was completed in September, 1957, with 12 additional classrooms added in 1966. The old church was demolished in 1958, and a new church hall dedicated in that same year. Construction of the convent was finished in 1962.

Following Fr. Heider's death in 1971, Fr. Robert Hungling returned to Assumption Parish as its pastor. A fire on December 28, 1978 destroyed the interior of the church, and Fr. Hungling oversaw the remodeling project which resulted in the lovely worship space we use today. The church was re-dedicated on the Feast of Our Lady of the Assumption, August 15, 1979, the year the parish celebrated its 125th anniversary.

Fr. Hungling retired on August 4, 1987 and was succeeded by Fr. Francis G. Lammeier, our current pastor. Fr. Lammeier enabled implementation of the RENEW program, and now is leading the parish into this major planning effort to prepare for the future — Assumption 2000.



OUTREACH

Our outreach is two fold: the first is our local parish community where we live, and secondly throughout the world to seek and support the cause and word of God.

MINISTRY

Our parish is bound in a Sacred Covenant to shoulder the burden, share the risk, and celebrate the joys of all members. We try always to confront conflicts in the spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation.

TODAY

YESTERDAY

A Dynamic Mission and Vision

MISSION

Our role as a parish is to support, nurture, educate and provide a corporate atmosphere that encourages, stimulates, teaches, and celebrates the word of God. We recognize that all individuals have their own personal journey of faith and spiritual growth. We believe that through our individual Christian growth, our parish can better embrace its mission in our community and, as a result, become a beacon of God's Universal Love.

VISION

WHO WE ARE

Assumption Catholic Church is a parish of Roman Catholic believers under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Here is where the word of God is preached and the Sacraments are duly administered to all who desire to receive them.

PURPOSE

We exist with the help of the Holy Spirit for the worship, for the edification of believers, and for redemption of people. We seek to enrich the lives of people in 3 ways: spiritually, educationally, and through Christian fellowship.



Church of The Assumption Case Statement Process

Father Francis Lammeier approved the CASE STATEMENT PROCESS in the winter of 1991. Following an extensive gathering of data from every group and organization in Assumption Parish, eight task forces were formed from members of the Assumption community. Their charge was to study, to review and to dream.

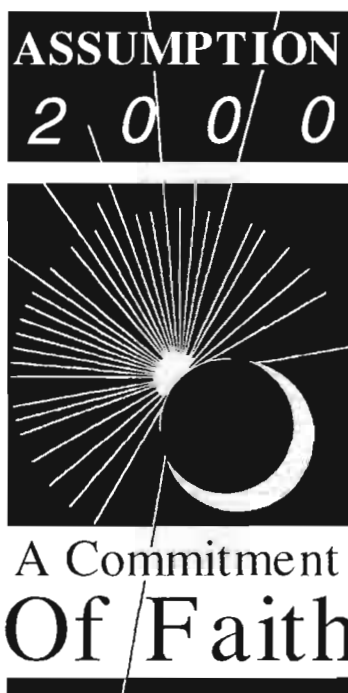
Each task force was asked to meet twice. The first meeting emphasized evaluation, internal review, and careful assessment of Assumption's future needs. Task force members were encouraged to "dream" about the ideal Assumption Parish they would like to see in the year 2000. The second meeting concluded with final consensus gathering and a prioritized list of recommendations to be presented to the entire Leadership Committee.

The self-study program was completed in May, 1992. Final recommendations and priorities from the Leadership Committee are included in this CASE STATEMENT REPORT.

This **Report** draws upon the input of some 126 task force members. It reflects an ordered assessment of the needs faced by Assumption Parish and School to ensure a strong and vibrant parish community now and into the 21st century.

By daring to dream, the eight task forces have given shape and form to the vision of what Assumption Parish must do to remain faithful to its mission.

This vision, the CASE STATEMENT REPORT, is now being presented to you and to our entire Assumption family.



TASK FORCE ON PARISH LIFE

Assumption Parish must be a vital, important and integral part of the lives of its parishioners. A concerted effort must be made to have effective programs which support the growth and address the needs of all parish members. The Eucharistic liturgy is central to the development of our spiritual lives. It is through this liturgy that the bonds of community worship are established.

From this origin, various parish ministries and organizations strengthen and enhance the spirit of community so vital to a full and meaningful Christian experience. Every effort must be made to continue to nourish the spiritual life of our parish.

The following are the major recommendations of the Parish Life Task Force:

Parish Life Task Force Members

Luke Camarota
Lil Dahlstrom
Joe Dahlstrom
Judy Dierker
Fr. Elsbernd
Gene Englert
Carol Johnstone
Ann Ketzer
Kathy Lorenz
Shirley Meister
Thea Padgett
Kathy Teufel

Chaired By:

Tom Dierker
Nancy Praechter

1. Commitment must be made to increase funding for religious education at all levels. Funds would be allocated for books, materials, and courses outside the parish.
2. Establish a liturgical task force to coordinate and oversee all ministries in the areas of recruitment, training, education and affirmation.
3. Plan for an annual major spiritual and/or liturgical program or presentation.
4. Establish a vibrant youth ministry, by recruiting a qualified person for the position.
5. All religious education teachers need to continue working toward certification.
6. Schedule an annual Commitment Sunday to inform parishioners about and interest them in our ministerial programs.
7. Schedule a fellowship gathering once a month after Mass to foster and develop the spirit of community.
8. There is a definite need for improved and accessible meeting space for ministries and organizations.
9. Consider forming a "Network of Care" to assist parishioners in whatever ways needed through a coordinated effort.
10. Reinstate the parish picnic to help build community and cultivate interest, participation and commitment in all parish activities.
11. The sacrament of Reconciliation should be celebrated more often for our school and CCD children.
12. Resume a babysitting service at Mass, at the very least for special liturgies and celebrations.

**Demographics and
Records
Task Force Members**

Kelly Beischel
Joe Beischel
Judie Crank
Karen Gerrety
Louis Heinbuch
Leo Heitker
Fr. Lammeier
Debbie Looby
Pete Looby
Nancy Reusch
Andy Schehr

Chaired By:

Bill Sterwerf
Janet Curley



**THE TASK FORCE ON
DEMOGRAPHICS AND RECORDS**

For Assumption Parish to make any important decisions, it is crucial that all pertinent facts are collected and organized. There is a clear need to update our records concerning census data. It should be noted that the last parish census was taken in 1981. This information will assist us in formulating our long range parish plans.

The following are the major recommendations of the Demographics and Records Task Force:

1. A parish-wide census needs to be taken immediately.
2. An effective group of volunteers must be recruited to conduct the census and compile the resulting data.
3. Consideration must be given to the purchase of a new computer system and software to record, analyze and store the data.
4. Commitment must be made to update the census every 5 years.

Finance

Task Force Members

Rick Foster
Bob Helms
Jack Herb
Steve Krebs
Paul Mohr
Kathy Radamacher
John Riehle
Vince Stehlin
John Teufel

Chaired By:

Tom Janszen
Bob Auchter

Community Outreach Task Force Members

Vierling Blum
Joe Bobinger
Howard Doerger
Tom Effler
Jim Hartman
Bill Hoenninger
Carl Mack
Glen Nuckols
Karl Rebsch
Sue Singleton

Chaired By:

Al Peters
Steve Wolf

TASK FORCE ON FINANCE

Like most parishes today, Assumption faces many obstacles: increased costs; declining number of available clergy; no reserve funds or liquid assets; the ongoing task of maintaining a sufficient level of weekly contributions to meet expenses. Despite these concerns, Assumption has done a fine job in attempting to control costs.

The role of the pastor should be that of spiritual leader of the parish. We have found that Fr. Lammeier spends more than 50% of his time dealing with business and administrative matters.

It is more imperative now than ever before that Assumption evaluate its current operating structure and develop a long term financial plan.

The following are the major recommendations of the Finance Task Force:

1. We must reduce the amount of time Fr. Lammeier devotes to business/administrative matters. This can be accomplished by hiring a part-time business manager/bookkeeper.
2. Evaluate the structure of the current finance committee. Reorganize this group to become a more active participant in financial issues of the parish.
3. Consider exploring new ways to increase parishioners' contributions to the weekly collections.

TASK FORCE ON COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Involvement, participation, cooperation and enthusiasm create a vibrant and exciting parish community. Assumption has a long tradition of providing each parishioner with opportunities to participate in a wide variety of activities and functions. Coordination, communication and increased involvement in such activities can only enhance the quality of Christian life in our parish community.

The following are the major recommendations of the Community Outreach Task Force:

1. Meet the challenge of the youth in our parish by developing a strong, active, involved youth ministry.
 - A. Hire a youth minister to coordinate all youth activities and programs
2. There is a perceived need for an over-all parish coordinator. This person would orchestrate all parish functions, i.e. communications, scheduling, participation.
3. The needs of our senior citizens must be addressed. An organization for them should be established, with goals and programs developed.
4. All parish activities need to be more widely publicized through the church bulletin and special event announcements.
5. There is a definite need for office, meeting and storage space for our organizations and ministries.
6. Consideration should be given to renewing interest in and commitment to the Welcome Committee. This group can be a vital force for recruiting new parishioners to serve in our ministries and participate in our organizations.

TASK FORCE ON ATHLETICS

Assumption Parish has a long-standing tradition of providing quality athletic programs for the youth of the parish. Athletic competition makes a positive contribution to our children's mental, physical and spiritual growth. It affords them the opportunity to work with others, test their leadership abilities and develop a strong work ethic. The strength of our athletic programs needs continual enhancement, and necessary improvements must be considered to provide all children with every opportunity to participate in an athletic program of exceptional quality.

The following are the major recommendations of the Athletics Task Force:

1. Strong consideration should be given to the construction of a multi-purpose building.
2. The current physical education program in the school needs to be evaluated and improved. This program would be enhanced by the availability of a gymnasium.
3. There exists a need for more parental participation in school, athletic and parish activities.
4. Consideration needs to be given to expanding the athletic program to include activities for older youth and adults of the parish.
5. A long-term goal would have the parish own and operate athletic fields.

Athletics

Task Force Members

Sally Hader
Lisa Hilling
Elmer Kemen
Bill Litzinger
Tim Merkle
John Murrell
Amy Rebsch
Chris Rielag
Mike Rust
Denny Sparks

Chaired By:

Ed Fisher
Janet Reeder

Rate and Screening Task Force Members

Tom Blum
Tom Brinkmann
Bob Dashley, Jr.
Chuck Gartner
Frank Girmann
Vince Knueven
Bob Lemkuhl
Otto Moorman
Gary Woeste

Chaired By:

Tim Praechter
Bill Effler

Assumption Parish appreciates the time and effort made by the Rate and Screening Task Force on behalf of Assumption 2000.



TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION

One of the important cornerstones of a dynamic and active parish is its school. Assumption School has established itself as a top quality elementary program. The administration and faculty continue each year to improve the quality of the educational programs.

A special emphasis continues to be placed on all religious programs, including liturgies. All educational programs encompass the three goals of the pastoral document, "To Teach as Jesus Did", i.e. mission, community and service.

The following are the major recommendations of the Educational Task Force:

1. There is a critical need to upgrade religious and academic texts by purchasing new books.
2. Establish a pay scale enabling the faculty to be reimbursed for performing extra-curricular services and duties.
3. Continue our commitment to enhance computer education by purchasing new hardware and software, as required.
4. Work diligently to increase teacher salaries to Level III on the Archdiocesan recommended pay scale.
5. Hire a full-time physical education teacher, part-time art teacher and school nurse.
6. Consider hiring a part-time business manager, who could develop ways to better utilize the school's budget.
7. Enhance educational opportunities for our students by hiring a reading specialist, speech therapist, psychologist, learning disability and enrichment program teachers.
8. Construction of a parish center with a gymnasium would provide the proper environment for a well-rounded physical education program.
9. Devise a tuition aid program for parish families needing such financial assistance.

Education

Task Force Members

Marian Blum
Sue Hays
Tricia Heitfeld
Tim Kinne
Dan Nieman
Rick Ries
Sr. Marietta
Kathy Sparks

Chaired By:

Bill Walborn
Toby Dirr



TASK FORCE ON BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

It is imperative that our parish have a church, school and parish buildings which are physically sound, safe and conducive to serving the needs of the parish. As Assumption faces the future, many areas are in need of improvement. The task force discussed the future maintenance and use of all church property. Its recommendations were made to renew the commitment to good stewardship of the physical plant. This commitment is necessary in order to provide our next generation good facilities for continued parish growth.

Buildings and Grounds Task Force Members

Paul Beischel
Norb Bella
Giles Fisher
Bill Hader
Jack Luensman
Bob Sunderhaus
Tom Swindling
Mark Teufel

Chaired By:

Ross Bittner
Denny Hays

The task force identified three objectives:

- I. Correct critical problems.
- II. Develop a preventive maintenance plan.
- III. Erect a multi-purpose building.

There were over 33 specific recommendations made by this task force. The following are the major recommendations of the Buildings and Grounds Task Force:

1. Establish a parish committee to oversee and facilitate maintenance and refurbishments.
2. Develop an annual budget for maintenance in order to work preventively rather than on an "emergency repair" basis. Repairs are to be scheduled at the discretion of the committee, reporting to Fr. Lammeier or a parish business manager.
3. Begin the planning required to implement a 5-year plan for capital improvements, consisting of:
 - A. Renovation of the convent to serve as a parish office and priests' residence, including construction of new garages.
 - B. Demolition of the present rectory, in order to avoid the considerable cost required to bring the building up to standards, and to provide a site for a new multi-purpose building which could be easily accessed from the school.

**A RESPONSE TO THE
CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION
CASE STATEMENT
REPORT**



“Assumption 2000” is an outline for the future of our parish that establishes short and long range goals, directions and dreams for our Assumption Family. These goals will enable our parish to become an increasingly dynamic and spiritually vibrant center for all parishioners. This document has resulted in an extremely honest evaluation of the present condition of Assumption, as well as a hope-filled stance toward our future. The Case Statement serves as our blueprint to meet the challenges of our parish in an orderly and planned way.

I firmly believe the results of our work on “Assumption 2000” will increase parish participation in all areas, and provide better communication and responsive programming to meet the needs of all our parishioners. As one of our parish members said recently, “I am pleased to see something being done to bring us all together.” To quote a sixth generation Assumption parishioner, “You may say this is impossible, but this is where our faith comes in, with God nothing is impossible”.

As a dedicated parishioner of Assumption, I want to remind each of you of your continued importance and insight as the Case Statement process further unfolds. We can make a difference. We can say that our faith is important. We can ensure that Assumption will continue to provide the solace, the spiritual growth and the positive impact that has been the heritage and tradition of our parish.

Each of us must meet this challenge. We must preserve and enhance that which past generations of Assumption parishioners have provided for us. If not, we can go by way of the dinosaur, EXTINCTION!

We must work together to position Assumption for the future and to make our rightful claim as one of the truly outstanding parishes of spiritual growth and learning in Cincinnati.

I ask for your consideration and support to make this plan become a reality.

Sincerely,

Rick Reder
Co-Chairman, “Assumption 2000”