

## SAINT FRANCIS MISSION STATEMENT

The people and the pastor of St. Francis parish recognize that they are redeemed and called by God to be active members of the body of Christ. Our parish is an integral part of God's church in the Diocese of LaCrosse. As God's people, we participate in the universal mission that Jesus gave to his apostles. In order to fulfill this mission, we see the need for the following activities.

- 1) God is to be worshiped by his people. The primary means by which we worship, is the celebration of the Sacraments. We must carefully attend to our place of worship and the liturgies and rites by which we celebrate the sacraments. In order to fully celebrate the sacraments, we encourage as many people as possible to exercise appropriate ministries in our worship.
- 2) We recognize that our public worship of God will be hollow unless it flows from attitudes and convictions that are consistent with Gospel values. We know that our interest must go beyond our parish limits. In our dealings with each other and in our attitudes toward the world in general we must do our utmost to conform to the ideals of Christ. The teachings of the Church will be our guide in all matters of peace and justice at all levels.
- 3) God's love is felt most intimately in the context of the family. We will do what is necessary to promote and strengthen family life. God's kingdom will surely be more evident in our personal lives and in the world if family bonds are strong. Family life must be healthy if the other institutions of our society are to be healthy.
- 4) The life of the Church and all that goes with it is a precious gift that has been handed on to us by the faithful of past generations. We too recognize the obligation to be faithful in transmitting this gift to future generations. Moreover, we see the need for all the members of the parish to grow in the knowledge and practice of the faith. Catholic education and formation will be of the highest priority in our parish.

Our mission at St. Francis is consistent with the mission of our diocese, which, in turn, is consistent with the mission of the universal Church. We are all travelers on the road laid out by the Son. The road leads to complete happiness in the kingdom of the Father. The Holy Spirit is with us to guide, protect, and console as we travel. Because the way is difficult, lonely and dangerous, we are given to each other as companions and helpers on this pilgrimage to our eternal home.