Visioning the Future

The Catholic Community at Stanford (CC@S) Beyond 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE DREAM TEAM REPORT

Stanford is a mixture of year round (aka permanent community) and transitory community members; new members joining us every Fall Quarter, others leaving at graduation, or for a new job. Others, including graduate students, remain year round. People arrive from different countries, experiences, and perspectives. As a result, it is vitally important for each of us to make the effort to connect, engage, and live our faith with each other in everyday life.

This past year, a group led by Father Xavier Lavagetto, took a look at how to envision and move our community forward into the future. As a result of many conversations, meetings, and a Town Hall meeting in September, this group recommends focusing actions around five themes:

- **Connectedness** — Deepening Community
- **Leaders and Leadership** — Discovering and Training Leaders
- **Spiritual and Religious Formation** — Based on Solid Theological Foundation
- **Social Teachings/Social Justice** — Learning Catholic Social Teaching and ‘Doing’
- **Liturgy and Music** — Enhancing the Liturgy

In order for this to be successful, the lay community must engage and step into leadership roles to champion efforts and help meet the challenges of this vibrant and diverse community while lightening the load of CC@S staff who go the extra mile with love and devotion.

“**Encounter Christ, Radiate Joy, Transform The World**”

Mission of the Catholic Community at Stanford

The entire community (faculty, staff, students, alumni, year-round community) is characterized by respect, welcome and joy; striving to deepen discipleship; engage the community; cultivate participation and connections; embracing service and evangelization. To implement actions within the five themes, the following ideas are proposed:

**C**onnectedness — to form a united, interrelated and engaged community that is purpose-driven

- **Create an Alumni Affiliate Members Group** — many alumni wish to belong more intentionally and remain connected with CC@S
- **Create an Intra-Community Council (ICC)** — assemble a pastoral council drawn from every segment of our community to focus on maintaining the CC@S vision, providing oversight and initiating intra-community and inter-generational events and programs and activities to meet, learn, grow, do service, and socialize
- **Create Specific Outreach To and Among Undergraduate and Graduate Students** — everyone should be and feel welcomed; as a community, we need to be intentional in our outreach to students by all community members
- **Enhance the Mission of the Year-Round Community (YRC)** — our vision is that they would be a
catalyst for spiritual growth and Catholic action. The goal is to surround the “parade” of students with a vibrant YRC

- **Enhance Mentoring Opportunities** — link students to significant people on and off campus
- **Understand the Challenges of the Pandemic Era** — maintain online capabilities post-Pandemic era; increase use of alternate resources to provide a mechanism to give voice to community members sharing their wisdom and spiritual experiences

**Leaders and Leadership** — “Resist the temptation to do for others what they should do themselves”

- **Identify Leaders** — use new resources and workshops to discover unique gifts and talents within our community, for example, the Called and Gifted Workshop, Gallup’s Clifton Strengths, etc.
- **Provide Learning and Teaching Opportunities to Grow Leaders** — with training, prepare others to lead small groups and focus groups; as we grow more leaders, we expand our bandwidth for spiritual formation and enrichment
- **Reconsider and Re-examine certain aspects of the Esteem Leadership Program**

**Spiritual and Religious Formation** — the core spirituality activity of CC@S is the Small Faith Sharing Groups. “The goal should be to get everyone into a small faith group.”

- **Enhance Small Groups and One-on-One Experiences** — increase participation and encourage development as intentional communities; empower relationships of spiritual accompaniment
- **Measure and Establish a Program for Spiritual Community Engagement** — use Gallup’s Faith Member Engagement survey ME25 to identify areas of growth
- **Enhance Retreats and Engage More of the Community** — include mini-online retreats
- **Engage the Community More Spiritually** — offer ‘show and tell’ Mass; publish gospel reflections; provide cross-platform lectures and talks, witness testimonials, etc.
- **Develop a Structure to Present Insights of the Catholic Faith and Catholic Spirituality**
- **Continue Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)** — support the faith formation of our children and teens with a special outreach to high school age children of community members

**Social Teachings/Social Justice** — enhance and expand education about Catholic social teachings to bring us to a greater understanding of issues

- **Provide More Service Programs** — interest is often expressed across all segments of our community for more social justice effort; identify programs; engage the community
- **Inform Community on Service and Restorative Justice** — develop kinship with the ‘other’; teach the seven principles of Catholic social justice

**Liturgy and Music** — Mass is central to our community; it is where most people gather and are held together as a community; it is a venue for deeper connections

- **Live-Streaming Mass** — continue it post-Pandemic Era; continue to develop engaging elements
- **Music** — encourage full-throated singing; introduce more culturally diverse music and liturgical styles which represent the universal Church (guest celebrants from around the world)
- **Enhance Before- and After-Mass Experiences** — Mass is more than a liturgical celebration—it’s an opportunity to strengthen our community

FULL Dream Team Report published at www.stanfordcatholic.org

Have a question? Offer a Suggestion? Want to Get Involved? Contact Fr. Xavier at mycatholiccommunitydream@gmail.com