



## Our Lady of Consolation Parish

Father Tony Russo, Pastor

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Dear People of Our Lady of Consolation,

If you recall, the first weekend of June of this year we rolled out the Strategic Planning Map for OLC. We are now reintroducing the map to the parish to explain the purpose and are inviting all parishioners to study the center of the map.

### How Did We Get Here?

In 2009 the Diocese of Grand Rapids began ***Our Faith, Our Future***, an overall planning process for the Diocese to merge and cluster parishes due to the declining number of priests. In 2010 the Diocese recommended OLC develop a Long Range Plan for the entire parish. A very dedicated team *did* begin the development of a Long Range Plan. However, in 2012 everything was put on hold because Bishop Hurley retired and announced the opening of a new parish in Cedar Springs. Not knowing the direction our new Bishop would take the Diocese or how the parish in Cedar Springs would impact OLC, we decided to delay the Long Range Planning for one year.

On June 18, 2013, Bishop David J. Walkowiak was ordained and installed Bishop of the Diocese of Grand Rapids. Two weeks later on July 1, 2013, St. John Paul II Parish, Cedar Springs opened its doors. In light of our changing environment, we needed to clarify our mission, vision, responsibilities and values in order to complete the Long Range Plan. We did just that. With the input of many committed parishioners, in May 2014 we completed our Strategic Planning Map. We are now using all the past information collected from the Long Range Planning Team, the Gallup Survey and the information from the Strategic Planning Map to move forward with the Long Rang Plan.

### How We Developed the Map.

There is an incredible amount of information on the map. In order to effectively plan for the future and clarify our mission and vision, we needed to look at our broader environment: the context within which OLC operates; the world around us, the community in which we live and other various things that may affect our work as a parish family. Some things we **can not** change: the direction of the Diocese, economic trends and the competitive landscape (other churches in the community). Some things we **can** change: common practices of the parish, what we value and how we want to be perceived. All of this information assisted us in clarifying our mission, the direction of the parish, our responsibilities, values and vision.

### How to Read the Map. Please focus on the middle of the map.

Read and reflect on the **MISSION**. Based on all the input we have received from our lay leaders, planning teams and parishioners, we believe this simple sentence clearly describes *why we exist*. Read and reflect on the **VISION**. This statement describes *what we strive to be*. We recognize we are always a "work in progress." **What do they mean for you and our parish?**

Read each of the **STRATEGIES**. **Which strategy is most important to you? What ideas can you share and how can you apply your gifts in this area?**

This map was created to help us plan for the next five years. We invite you to journey with us over these next five years and together do something that will build the Kingdom of God here at Our Lady of Consolation Parish.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,