



**St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi Parish  
Halifax, Nova Scotia**

**Parish Identity Action Plan**

As Submitted to the Archdiocese of  
Halifax, June 2021

# ST. FRANCIS AND ST. CLARE OF ASSISI PARISH

## Parish Identity Action Plan

June 2021

### I. Introduction

The Parish of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, located in the North End of Halifax, Nova Scotia, has been formed by the merger of four communities: St. Theresa, St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, St. Patrick and St. Catherine of Siena. Each of these former parishes has been in existence for many decades and each has developed a strong sense of identity and history that is very important and meaningful to its members. Thus, as we look forward and begin to engage in the process of developing an identity as a new parish – which we acknowledge to be a long-term project that will grow and evolve over time – we recognize the importance of honoring where we have come from and ensuring that the history and identities of our founding communities forms part of who we are and who we become. We are not starting from a “clean slate”, so to speak, but instead we are building upon the considerable heritage that we have received from our former parishes.

As a first step in developing our “Action Plan” for Parish Identity, the Pastoral Council of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi Parish struck a sub-committee of its members, with representation from each of the four communities, to study the issue and develop a plan to bring back to the Council for approval. One of the first acts of the sub-committee was to conduct a survey of our parishioners in each of the four communities, in order to gain some insight into both the challenges and opportunities that lie before us in coming together to form a new parish identity. The survey was conducted between April 4<sup>th</sup> and April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and included both an option to complete it electronically or in hard copy. It generated 211 responses, which came from members of the four communities in roughly equal proportion. In addition to collecting some basic demographic information, such as which community the respondents came from, how long they have been members of their community and whether they normally attend mass alone or with family or friends, the survey also asked respondents a number of questions in the following areas:

- Whether they had attended mass or events in the other communities in the parish, and that that experience was like
- Why they attend their particular church, and what traditions in their community are important to them
- Whether they know people in other communities, and whether they are open to attending Mass of other events in the other communities
- What, in their view, is the most important way to build community
- What they are hopeful will be gained from the unification of the four communities in one new parish
- What they are fearful of losing when the communities unify

After collecting and collating the survey data, the Parish Identity sub-committee met (virtually) several times to discuss the data and to coordinate the work needed to develop this Action Plan. In reviewing the data, the committee looked for common threads or themes running through the survey responses that could form the basis for particular objectives that could be included with the Plan. Some of the themes that emerged from the data included the following:

- Building relationships with others is an important part of fostering unity
- Events and traditions, including both liturgies and social gatherings, are an important part of what it means to belong to a particular community
- There is uncertainty and some degree of fear of what the future holds in terms of loss of current community identities and possible church closure

After reflecting upon the survey responses and the themes that were identified, the Parish Identity sub-committee met several more times in order to establish the key objectives that would form the pillars of the Action Plan. Six (6) such objectives were developed, which will be described herein in further detail. The sub-committee members then worked together to develop the particular tasks that will form the practical means by which the six objectives of the Action Plan will be implemented, as well as to identify the resources required to complete each task, who is ultimately responsible for overseeing implementation, what timeline is anticipated for each task, and what the criteria for success are. It was noted that some of the tasks, by their nature, will serve to address more than one of the Plan's objectives, as there is a connectedness and integrity to the objectives. The sub-committee presented the draft Action Plan to the Parish Pastoral Council at its meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 and sought feedback from the full Council on the Plan. After a period of further reflection and refinement, the final Action Plan was presented to the Council at its meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, at which time the Plan in the form of this document was approved for submission to the Archdiocese.

## **II. The Action Plan**

The Parish Identity Action Plan of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi Parish is comprised of six (6) key objectives, which as noted in the foregoing section have been developed in the course of reflecting on the survey of parishioners that was conducted, and the common themes running through the various responses. The Plan is intended to be a starting point on the long journey of developing a sense of identity within our Parish, and we fully anticipate that it will change and evolve over time. The Parish Pastoral Council will be actively involved in monitoring the implementation of the six objectives and will consider at least annually whether changes are needed in order to better serve the purposes of uniting as a Parish.

### *A. Objective #1 – Promote Identifying as the Parish of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi*

The first step in developing our identity as a parish is to identify ourselves as such. Although we still have four churches within our parish, we want to encourage the sense that we are now one united community under the banner of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, such that our parishioners will associate themselves with that new name and community rather than continuing to think of themselves as members of one of the constituent communities. We learned from the survey that people have strongly identified with the name of their community, including the symbols, traditions and other unique features associated with that name and community. Thus, in

developing the identity of the new parish, we feel that it is important to more closely identify with the Parish name, and to develop common symbols and messaging that contribute to that. We also feel, as noted above, that the identity of the new parish is being developed not from a blank slate but as a continuation of the rich histories that our constituent communities are bringing to it, and thus we want to promote a sharing with one another of our respective histories so that we can better understand who we are and where we have come from. Drawing together these considerations, we have developed the following tasks toward this first objective of identifying as the new Parish of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi:

| Task                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Success Criteria                                                         | Person/s Responsible                                                            | Timeline                                                 | Resources                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I. Invest in branding/signage campaign for all four churches (for example, church signs, photos or other images of St. Francis and St. Clare)                                                                                                                                    | Signs installed at the four churches, annual survey response             | Property committee with Pastor                                                  | September of 2021                                        | Parishioners with design experience or links to graphic design companies                                       |
| II. Build on a sense of community within the welcome message, announcements, and where possible, the homily.                                                                                                                                                                     | References made during each Mass                                         | Celebrants and liturgical committee/s                                           | Immediate                                                | Liturgical committee members                                                                                   |
| III. Create additional content for our YouTube about the patron saints, guest speakers and history of each church.                                                                                                                                                               | Regular appearance of new material monthly<br>Feedback from Parishioners | Establish committee of volunteers with experience in content creation for video | Content appearing monthly beginning in September of 2021 | Franciscans, older youth of the parish; individuals who have the institutional memory of each church community |
| IV. Some form of monthly parish-wide communication that shines a light on the beauty and history of each church community. Each month, a common feature is shared and compared; for example, the history of each tabernacle, a particular stained-glass window from each church. | Feedback from parishioners sought through next parish survey             | Volunteers to be sought                                                         | Beginning September of 2021                              | Parishioners with historical knowledge of the church<br>Existing parish bulletin                               |

| Task                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Success Criteria                             | Person/s Responsible         | Timeline                                                                                                                         | Resources                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| V. When COVID-19 restrictions have passed, combine some parish-wide Masses. (1) While the current restrictions persist, we could aim to have a single streaming presentation of Mass each weekend. (2) When things open up to partial attendance, consider allowing some cross-attendance so that people can start to branch out and attend elsewhere. (3) As restrictions further ease, open this up more and more. (4) Eventually, we should get to the point of regularly having one set of Masses at one church on some weekends (perhaps monthly, to begin with). As a recommendation, we could begin with Feast Days. | Feedback from parishioners.<br>Annual survey | Pastor and liturgy committee | (1) Immediately<br><br>(2&3) September 2021 or as soon as public health guidelines permit thereafter<br><br>(4) To be determined | Website, Bulletin, Mass Coordinators, Liturgy Committees and all related Ministries & Clergy |

*B. Objective #2 – Explore Shared Areas of Ministry*

Because we are a community of faith, the shared celebration of liturgies and the exercise of various forms of pastoral ministry are important ways in which we live out together our call to be children of God and followers of Jesus Christ in the world. Our founding communities have developed their own areas of focus for pastoral ministry, and we feel that in coming together as a new united parish we need to understand what ministries are in place currently, and how we can promote a greater sharing with one another in the exercise of those ministries. Accordingly, we have developed the following tasks and related criteria in order to explore shared areas of ministry:

| Task                                                                          | Success Criteria                           | Person/s Responsible                                                     | Timeline                                     | Resources                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| I. Parish choir to perform at parish-masses and common Holy Day celebrations. | Creation and performance of combined choir | Liturgy Committee of churches' Choir Directors or Music Ministry Leaders | When COVID restriction allow choir practices | Choir Directors and those in Music Ministry |

| <b>Task</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Success Criteria</b>                 | <b>Person/s Responsible</b>       | <b>Timeline</b>                   | <b>Resources</b>                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| II. Parish Council review existing spiritual, educational, liturgical and outreach programs (for example, refugee programs) in four communities, and consider where combination/coordination will be workable to foster growth and unity.         | Integration of programs, where desired. | Pastor(s) and Pastoral Council    | Ongoing                           | Bulletin, Website, All related committees |
| III. Ministers of Eucharist and liturgy from all four churches can be scheduled to serve at parish-wide masses.                                                                                                                                   | Participation across churches           | Liturgy committees and schedulers | When COVID restrictions are eased | Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers            |
| IV. Have each community provide a presentation on YouTube that speaks to areas of ministry that are of interest and are being undertaken, as a way of educating one another and gaining greater awareness of what is going on in our communities. | Completion of videos                    | Individual Pastoral Teams         |                                   | YouTube, On camera talent and volunteers  |

*C. Objective #3 – Communication*

As was noted above, one of the themes that we noted from the survey was a sense of uncertainty about the merger of communities into the new parish, and what will happen as a result of that. We believe that one tool that can be deployed to assist our people in understanding and being engaged in the process of unification is enhanced communication. As we started to think about communication, we also thought of it not only as a means of helping overcome uncertainty with respect to the merger, but also to promote greater sharing around community events and ministries. Thus, the following tasks were developed in relation to the objective of communication:

| <b>Task</b>                                                                                                         | <b>Success Criteria</b>                                    | <b>Person/s Responsible</b> | <b>Timeline</b>   | <b>Resources</b>       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| I. Highlight special events from each community on website & Facebook page, inviting participation from the parish. | Bulletins will reflect all four churches and their events. | Staff and volunteers        | September of 2021 | Shared parish calendar |

| Task                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Success Criteria                                                                                                                                | Person/s Responsible                                  | Timeline                 | Resources                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>II. Create a shared parish calendar that enhances our parish bulletin and allows for a section devoted to the individual church. Highlight special events, and sacramental events such as baptisms and new members.</p>                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>Each bulletin will contain information about all four churches.</p> <p>Online shared calendar for parish will be created and up to date.</p> | <p>Staff and volunteers</p>                           | <p>September of 2021</p> | <p>Shared parish calendar template such as Google or Outlook. Alternatively, a new platform could be used by the team, such as “Teamup” (free or \$8/month) <a href="https://www.teamup.com/pricing/">https://www.teamup.com/pricing/</a> A representative from each church will update a shared calendar by Thursday of each week.</p> |
| <p>III. Create a common children’s bulletin that teaches the children not just about the gospel and the message from the week’s Mass, but also about our Parish and the four churches within.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Bulletin is distributed in each parish each week.</p> <p>Bulletin contains balanced content from the four churches.</p>                      | <p>Staff, Religious education teachers to collate</p> | <p>September of 2021</p> | <p>Popular software like “Canva” can be used to make the bulletin attractive to kids.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <p>IV. Provide regular updates to the community from the Parish Council, so that people know about developments in relation to the transition and feel more engaged. We recommend a pastoral council section in our parish bulletin, announcements at the end of Mass and the introduction of the council to the parishioners. A parish council page will be created on the parish website.</p> | <p>Page for Parish Council will be created on Parish website and updated regularly.</p>                                                         | <p>Volunteer from the council</p>                     | <p>September of 2021</p> | <p>Shared parish calendar<br/>Parish Council page on website<br/>Parish bulletin<br/>Facebook page<br/>Website designer</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

*D. Objective #4 – Blend and Enhance Faith Development and Formation*

An action plan to develop the identity of a faith community must, of necessity, have elements that are focused on spirituality and faith formation. After all, the sharing and celebration of our faith is a fundamental part of parish life, and indeed is very much connected with and finds expression in pastoral ministry, which is addressed in Objective #2 of the Action Plan. As with other aspects of our coming together as a Parish, we are building upon faith development and formation activities and programs that are already in place in our constituent communities, and we are looking to further integrate those programs and enhance them as may be appropriate. The tasks that we have developed in relation to this objective are as follows:

| <b>Task</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Success Criteria</b>                                                                | <b>Person/s Responsible</b>                                                                   | <b>Timeline</b>                                                         | <b>Resources</b>                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I. Form a parish-wide youth group.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Based on participation numbers                                                         | The leaders of the youth groups in each community                                             | During COVID restricted times - online (Zoom); Post COVID – immediately | Leaders and volunteers; referrals from Religious Ed. Director                                            |
| II. Feature a guest speaker/pre-recorded speaker every two months, via Zoom and/or in person when permitted.                                                                                                                                                                                    | Participation from all communities                                                     | Clergy/ Leadership Committee/ Rel. Ed Coordinators                                            | Preferably post-COVID when restrictions are gone                        | Parish-related YouTube channel; record for future viewings; FORMED; Requested speakers                   |
| III. Implement parish-wide bible studies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Based on participation numbers                                                         | Pastors, Deacons, leaders from previously offered programs                                    | Combined online learning (Zoom) with in-person sessions                 | Team lead, programs (i.e. FORMED); Clergy; Religious Ed. Director or Deacons                             |
| IV. Establish and extend an adult faith formation program, with content to be shared by YouTube and other forms of technology, together with in-person opportunities in future. Parish leadership can promote and share this opportunity and strongly encourage adults to engage in the course. | Participation from all communities; success to be determined at the end of the program | Pastors, Deacons, Leadership and Pastoral teams; current leaders of faith formation programs. | After the summer; possibly Advent                                       | Pastor, Deacons and church leaders; Tech support for online participants; Zoom or in-person as permitted |

| Task                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Success Criteria               | Person/s Responsible                                                                                   | Timeline                                                                                                                   | Resources                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| V. Build on whatever connection/integration has already been made in relation to the faith formation program for children and youth. Promote sharing of resources and integration of classes where that makes sense. | Based on participation numbers | The leaders of each of the Faith Formation programs (i.e. Religious Ed. Director, Youth director etc.) | In-person should resume immediately following restrictions. Add in online learning where necessary across the communities. | Program leaders; tech support for home-based involvement. |

*E. Objective #5 – Foster a Lively and Shared Spiritual Life*

As was noted above in respect of the fourth objective of the Action Plan, it is essential to the development of our identity as a parish that we promote a shared spiritual life. This is not to in any way limit the spiritual practices and activities of the members of our community, but rather to ensure that there is an active communal spiritual life present within the Parish. As with other aspects of the Action Plan, we are building on what is already going on in our constituent communities, rather than starting afresh, and we are looking to integrate our current spiritual practices and seek to enhance them where possible. The tasks that we have developed in relation to this objective are:

| Task                                                                                                                                                                         | Success Criteria                                          | Person/s Responsible                                                 | Timeline                                                                                          | Resources                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| I. Adopt and promote regular practices of the following across the parish: Rosary, Adoration, <i>Lectio Divina</i> , Stations of the Cross, Celebration of Feast Days, etc.) | Participation numbers and feedback by survey in one year. | Pastors and staff & volunteers for publication and technical support | Immediate implementation by Zoom<br>Possible in-person delivery when COVID restrictions are past. | Zoom, Pastors and possibly other Clergy, other volunteers |
| II. As per objective number one, shared Masses within the parish.                                                                                                            | Participation numbers and feedback by survey in one year. | Clergy, Liturgy committee(s), Shared Choir/Music Ministries          | When COVID restrictions are past.                                                                 | Pastor and Liturgy Committees, Music/Choir Directors      |

| Task                                                                  | Success Criteria                                          | Person/s Responsible                               | Timeline                          | Resources                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| III. An annual parish mission that is shared among all four churches. | Participation numbers and feedback by survey in one year. | Pastors and Pastoral Council; Leadership Committee | When COVID restrictions are past. | Mission leaders, Pastor(s), Pastoral Council and volunteers |

*F. Objective #6 – Bolster Relationship-Building Opportunities*

It was abundantly clear from our survey of parishioners that building relationships and personal connections is a fundamental part of developing a sense of community. Obviously, the restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic over the past year and a half have severely limited the ability of our communities to physically gather together and allow people to get to know one another. Plans for Parish liturgical celebrations at each of the four churches in our Parish had to be postponed indefinitely, and holding other events and gatherings were simply impossible. However, as we look ahead and begin the work of developing our parish identity, an important element of that will be building relationships and connections between our parishioners. The tasks we have identified in the pursuit of this objective are the following:

| Task                                                                                                                                                                 | Success Criteria                                                                                 | Person/s Responsible                                                                                                                                                                                  | Timeline                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Resources                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I. Church fairs, family days, church suppers and other social activities are advertised across the parish and members of each congregation are encouraged to attend. | Cross-community social events are held and parishioners have the opportunity to meet one another | A new parish committee comprised of representatives of local social events committees should be formed. This committee would oversee and coordinate these events with local social events committees. | The progress of COVID restrictions will dictate timing relative to in-person events, but the committee should be struck in September of 2021, and opportunities sought out for connecting people socially, even if only virtually initially. | Parish bulletin and website to communicate about the events. Volunteers to oversee and coordinate. Promotion by clergy and lay leaders. Local social events committees to lead the events, with financial support from the whole parish.<br><br>Shared calendar |

| Task                                                                                                                           | Success Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Person/s Responsible                                                                                                                 | Timeline                                                                                                                                                  | Resources                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>II. Parish-wide social events at least once/year.</p>                                                                       | <p>Between September 2021 and 2022, at least one parish wide social event is held.</p>                                                                                                                                     | <p>The parish-wide social events committee, as described above.</p>                                                                  | <p>September of 2021 to September of 2022.</p>                                                                                                            | <p>Parish bulletin and website to communicate about the events. Volunteers to oversee and coordinate. Promotion by clergy and lay leaders. Parish-wide financial support to be provided.</p>                        |
| <p>III. Create a cross-community buddy system for parishioners who would like to put their names forward.</p>                  | <p>Interested parishioners are connected with one another (whether in person or virtually) and actively getting to know one another</p>                                                                                    | <p>To be determined. May need a new committee to oversee.</p>                                                                        | <p>The program should be launched early in September of 2021, with people connecting in late 2021 and early 2022. Check in on progress by early 2022.</p> | <p>Parish bulletin and website to communicate it. Volunteers to oversee and coordinate.</p>                                                                                                                         |
| <p>IV. Online Meet &amp; Greet for the entire parish, facilitated with break-out room for more smaller group conversations</p> | <p>At least 1 such meet &amp; greet event is held between September - December of 2021, unless COVID restrictions are eased to the point where in-person gatherings can be held and such online events are not needed.</p> | <p>To be determined. May need a new committee to oversee. Could be the same committee overseeing the "buddy system" noted above.</p> | <p>September - December of 2021.</p>                                                                                                                      | <p>Parish bulletin and website to communicate it. Volunteers to oversee and coordinate. Promotion by clergy and lay leaders. Online platforms to be used, with tech-savvy volunteers to assist in coordinating.</p> |

| Task                                                            | Success Criteria                                                                         | Person/s Responsible                                                                 | Timeline                      | Resources                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| V. Initiate opportunities for youth to meet on a regular basis. | Youth from the 4 communities are connecting and forming relationships on a regular basis | A new committee to be formed comprised of leaders of the youth in the 4 communities. | September - December of 2021. | Parish bulletin and website to communicate regarding youth events. Volunteers to oversee and coordinate. Promotion by clergy and lay leaders, including youth leaders. Responsible ministry documentation. |

### III. Conclusion

To reiterate what was said in the introductory section, above, we consider the development of parish identity to be a long-term project, indeed something that is “generational” in duration. This Action Plan is just a beginning, something concrete to get us started on the journey. It will undoubtedly change and evolve as time goes on, and it will be the responsibility of the Parish Pastoral Council, under the leadership of the Pastor and in consultation and collaboration with all parishioners, to closely monitor the implementation of the Plan and to make necessary adjustments when and as necessary. Our intention, consistent with the Objective #3 of the Action Plan, is to communicate openly and regularly with parishioners about the ongoing development of our Parish and its identity, and that will start with the sharing of this Plan with our parishioners, so that they are fully informed about it. We will be encouraging the faithful to provide their feedback and to get engaged in the work that is to be done.

In closing, we pray that God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – will watch over our Parish of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, and that He will continue to lead, guide and inspire us as we work together to implement this Action Plan. We also invoke the intercession of Our Blessed Mother Mary, and of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, St. Patrick, St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, that they will pray for us and help us along the way.