

THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY



Timeline of Discernment To Become a Sanctuary Supporting Congregation

For almost a year, our parish leadership has been learning about and discussing the possibility of The Basilica becoming a Sanctuary Supporting Congregation.

March 2017

- 3/2/17: In order to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters in our community, the Full Executive Team held initial discussions to understand the distinction between Sanctuary Congregation and Sanctuary Supporting Congregation.
- Johan van Parys, Director of Liturgy and Sacred Arts, created a document to highlight the Biblical basis of sanctuary.
- 3/23/17: FET and Parish Trustees met with lawyers from Dorsey & Whitney to learn about the legal issues related to sanctuary and sanctuary supporting congregations.

April 2017

- Parish Council and Finance Committee had independent conversations to understand the issues related to sanctuary supporting congregations.

May 2017

- Fr. Dale Korogi attended joint Parish Council and Finance Committee meeting and to discuss issues at the Church of the Ascension related to Latino parishioners and the need for support.

August 2017

- 8/2/17: Parish Council attended a Solidarity Dinner up at the Church of the Ascension and meets Ascension parishioners who are immigrants and hear their stories.
- 8/20/17: Ascension parishioners who are immigrants came to Basilica to share their stories of immigrating to the United States in a forum after Mass.

November 2017

- Parish Council discussed the possibility of declaring The Basilica a Sanctuary Supporting Congregation. They moved forward with a plan to get feedback from Basilica parishioners.

December/January 2018 Bulletin

- Fr. Bauer includes in his column information about the process and encourages anyone to contact him or members of the Parish Council for more information.

January 2018

- 1/21/18: Presentation from the American Refugee Committee about immigration held at The Basilica.
- 1/28/18: Newsletter cover article written by Parish Council President about the possibility of becoming Sanctuary Supporting Congregation and encourages people to reach out with input.

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April 2018

- 4/8/18: Presentation from the Advocates for Human Rights about immigration held at The Basilica.
- 4/8/18: Newsletter cover article written by Director of Christian Life about the possibility of becoming Sanctuary Supporting Congregation. Encourages people to reach out with input and attend upcoming Listening Sessions.
- 4/15/18: The Parish Council held Listening Sessions after all Sunday Masses (except 6:30pm) to listen to the thoughts and concerns of parishioners about declaring The Basilica a Sanctuary Supporting Congregation.
- 4/25/18: Parish Council unanimously votes to declare The Basilica a Sanctuary Supporting Congregation.