Strategic Planning Overview
As part of the current refresh of the Basilica’s Strategic Plan, the Basilica identified three themes as key focus areas for the work of the Basilica.
The themes were chosen after Basilica members talked with community partners (government, non-government and non-profits) to identify those areas where the Basilica is most impactful in making positive change in the community consistent with its mission. These resulting themes represent the areas of highest impact!

Three Strategic Themes:
- Sacred Arts -- Move, inspire and transform individuals and communities through excellence in the arts and creative practices
- Inclusivity -- Build a culture where people feel valued, welcome, integrated and included
- Homelessness -- Respond to the needs of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness

Reasons Homelessness Chosen for Strategic Plan:
Homelessness is a huge problem in our community. Moreover, there is momentum and opportunity through ongoing and organized efforts and known solutions.

Homelessness Strategy Goals:
Respond to the needs of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- Increase knowledge and awareness
- Connect those impacted to services
- Advocate

Intended Change Driven by Homelessness Strategy:
- Through knowledge, educate the community and build relationships with those impacted
- Connect to those impacted and prevent homelessness through connecting to resources
- Take action to provide direct services, organize systems and advocate change

Objectives of the Current Christian Life Research Process under the Lens of Homelessness:
- Evaluate Christian Life Ministries in their current state
- Focus that evaluation specifically and only on the Strategic Theme to end homelessness and only on the impact of ministries on those experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness
- Use accepted best practices for impacting homelessness as represented by the current Minnesota Heading Home Plan
- Create a base for evaluation of each Christian Life Ministry under this lens through using a common vocabulary and format
Christian Life Ministries Review through Heading Home Principles
Executive Summary
March 2022

Christian Life Research Process:

Baseline Study
➢ Using a questionnaire based on the 7 principles of the Heading Home MN Plan, we interviewed the CLM Staff to understand the current state of each ministry under the lens of homelessness impact.
➢ We prepared a summary of the interviews as well as the Heading Home MN Plan which were reviewed by and modified based on input from the CLM staff to ensure accuracy.
➢ Together we prepared an executive summary of each ministry under the homelessness criteria, using a common format and vocabulary to allow for assessment and comparison.

Increasing awareness
➢ A parish-wide symposium was offered with the Director from the MN State Office for Ending Homelessness, presenting the MN Heading Home Plan Principles and Strategies. Representatives from the Mpls Park Board and the Basilica’s Street Voices for Change also shared challenges and progress from their organizations.
➢ This was followed by a meeting with CL staff and volunteers.

Beta Test
➢ A beta test was designed to test the process using the heading home principles, surveys and follow up discussions.
➢ A survey was created using information from the baseline study and symposium.
➢ Three ministries were chosen as a beta test for the survey.
➢ Volunteers from the three ministries were asked to participate in the survey.
➢ A test group was recruited from each of the three ministries to review the survey results.
➢ The beta test survey and review process were evaluated and refined to be utilized with all Christian Life Ministries that intersect with areas of homelessness.

Next Steps:
▪ Plan and offer another parish-wide symposium to update the activities from the MN Heading Home Office and local efforts to reduce and end homelessness
▪ Use the refined process from the beta test to continue the assessment with all Christian Life Ministries that impact those experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness
▪ Information from the process will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of present activities and implement priorities to help increase effectiveness towards reducing and ending homelessness.