

**Light of Christ;
A Community Growing in Faith;
Living, Serving and Spreading
The Gospel of Love**



**St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church
591 Flint River Road
Jonesboro, Georgia 30238
(770) 478-0178
www.stphilipbenizi.org**

**Three-Year Plan
2009 - 2012**

Parish Mission Statement

**St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church
is dedicated
to continuing the Mission of Jesus Christ.**

**Endowed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit,
we experience and express the presence of God
through prayer,
the celebration of the sacraments,
and communal life.**

**We are a multicultural and diverse community
united by our faith in God,
by our desire to live the Gospel Message
and by our Roman Catholic Tradition.**

**Aware that Baptism calls us all
to active participation,
we commit ourselves
to the development of
lay leadership and lay ministry.**

**We strive to be a strong and joyful sign
of the Kingdom of God
by spreading the Good News,
serving those in need, growing spiritually
and living
Christ's Commandment of Love.**

**“Light of Christ;
A Community Growing in Faith;
Living, Serving and Spreading
The Gospel of Love”**

**November 30, 2008
First Sunday of Advent**

My Dear Parishioners,

Peace and all good things!

More than two and a half years ago, I invited about 40 parishioners to come to an informational meeting and asked them to be a part of a parish renewal program entitled “ENVISION”. I remember the expression on their faces when I explained that the process may take us three years to complete, after which goals would be set that would establish a course for the Spiritual Development of our parish until the year 2012.

At our next meeting, about 25 parishioners committed themselves to the three-year planning process. It is only because of the generosity of the members of the Planning Committee and dozens of other parishioners who assisted us along the way, that we now have a comprehensive plan to guide our parish for the next three years.

The primary focus, as seen in the Vision Statement at the top of this page, is for us to become an “Evangelizing Parish”; to enthusiastically spread the “Good News” of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by the witnessing of our Catholic faith.

With the leadership of parishioner Earl Flock, together with the Executive Leadership Team and the Planning Committee, we began the process by studying the 1992 document of the United States National Conference of Catholic Bishops entitled, “*Go and Make Disciples*”, which is a National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization.

The Planning Committee coordinated and organized the CARA Questionnaire, developed the Focus Groups, as well as Listening Day, Discernment Day and Visioning Day. Others then volunteered to form an Editing Committee which articulated and organized all the data and prepared the final three-year plan.

All parishioners were invited and welcomed to share in the ENVISION Process. This process has been genuinely collaborative and inclusive. The Vision Statement at the top of this page is brief. It is only sixteen words; but they are challenging words.

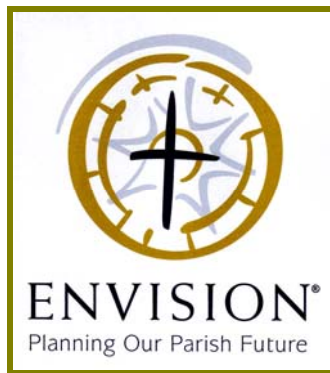
Our parish, as well as our lives, can and will be transformed by the power of the Gospel and the Holy Spirit which continues to breathe life into us.

The pages that follow challenge us now to *become* the “Light of Christ; A Community Growing in Faith; Living, Serving and Spreading the Gospel of Love.”

Over these next three years, let us accept the challenge and let us work *together* in building up the Kingdom of God here at St. Philip Benizi Parish.

Sincerely yours in St. Francis,

**Fr. Gregory Hartmayer, OFM Conv.
Pastor**



PRAYER FOR EVANGELIZATION

**Loving God,
you called us each by name
and gave your only Son to redeem us.
In your faithfulness, you sent the Holy Spirit
to complete the mission of Jesus among us.**

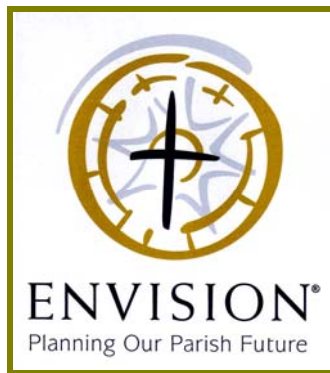
**Open our hearts to Jesus.
Give us the courage to speak his name
to those who are close to us
and the generosity to share his love
with those who are far away.**

**We pray that every person throughout the world
be invited to know and love Jesus
as Savior and Redeemer.**

**May they come to know his all-surpassing love.
May that love transform
every element of our society.**

**We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.
Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.
St. Paul the Apostle, pray for us.**

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The ENVISION Process

*“Go, therefore,
and make disciples of all nations...”*
(Mt 28: 19)

The ENVISION Questionnaire

August 18-19, 2007

Focus Group Meetings

November 4 & 6, 2007

Listening Day

January 26, 2008

Discernment Day

May 10, 2008

Visioning Day

July 12, 2008

Presentation of the Parish Plan

November 30, 2008

St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church

Vision Statement

“Light of Christ; A Community Growing in Faith; Living, Serving and Spreading The Gospel of Love”

- Light of Christ** We are called to be the “*Light of Christ*”, illuminating all corners of the world; lifting the veil of darkness in the hearts of those who have lost their way; we are *His* hands, *His* feet, *His* voice, *His* disciples, called to be beacons to all we meet – leading them to Christ.
- A Community** We are “*a community of communities*” – one family, comprised of many families – welcoming all who enter the doors of our sanctuary. We are one entity – a unified body of individuals with common interests and goals; a community united by our Catholic faith and our love of God. Although comprised of many diverse, cultural groups, we are one and the same in the Divine eyes of God – each of us, a child of God, precious in His sight. Through a spirit of cooperation, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and in accordance with God’s will, we assist in carrying out the mission of the Church – to build His Kingdom here on Earth for the common good of all.
- Growing in Faith** Regardless of age, we are called to continually learn about our Catholic faith. Having that knowledge, we can thereby practice our faith more fully, become enthusiastic about our faith, and evangelize to all we meet. “We cannot give what we ourselves don’t have” – a faith alive and on fire with the Holy Spirit!
- Living** Only when we each “*live*” the Gospel message, through humble acts of obedience and faithfulness to our God, can we hope to carry out the work of the Church and evangelize in whatever way we are called. When we are individually transformed, renewed, and filled with the Holy Spirit, we can serve, share and be the *Light of Christ* to others – becoming living signs of hope for those who are searching for the peace and happiness that can only be found in Jesus.
- Serving** We are called to serve whomever and wherever we are needed – the poor, the homeless, the sick, the lonely, the forgotten, the grief-stricken – those in our families, our parish, our local community, and our world. Through service to others and in the spirit of Stewardship, we also share our gifts of time, talent and treasure. “*Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.*” (Mt 25:40)
- And Spreading** *Living the Gospel* not only requires participation in the sacraments, but it also calls us to active participation in the life and the mission of the Church – Evangelization. We are called to fearlessly reach out and spread the Good News to non-believers, inactive Catholics, the poor in spirit, non-registered parishioners, and Catholics who do not understand or practice Stewardship as a way of life.
- The Gospel of Love** The two greatest commandments – love of God and love of neighbor – all else follows when we live the *Gospel of Love*. There are many in the world who live the culture of hatred, prejudice, pride, control, selfishness, exclusion, segregation and more. As a disciple of Christ and the *Light of Christ*, we are called to live, serve and spread the Gospel of **Love to all**, including our enemies. To love the one we hate is the true, Godly meaning of love; we are called to embrace this challenge at all times. This is our faith – this is what we know and believe to be true. Only by living the *Gospel of Love* in this way can we transform the world, one person at a time.

PRIORITY AREA: COMMUNITY

VISION LINK: Light of Christ; Growing in Faith; Living; Serving and Spreading the Gospel of Love.

MISSION OF PRIORITY AREA: St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church, through our many ministries and out-reach programs, strives to become one, unified, faith-based parish, centered on the worship of our one, true God. Through active participation by our many cultures, we create a bridge of understanding that encourages the sharing of our common interests, goals, values and respect. By virtue of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, we are one family of brothers and sisters in Christ, blessed with the Holy Spirit, committed to being a welcoming community, not only to our own parishioners, but also to those who come to us in need.

INCLUDED IN THIS AREA: How can we provide opportunities to all, as we accept, value, respect and celebrate our diverse community?

IN THREE YEARS, St. Philip Benizi Parish will:

1. be a parish that celebrates its diversity and promotes unity within the parish.
2. encourage liturgical ministries to reflect the different ethnic, racial and age groups within the parish.
3. encourage uninvolved parishioners by promoting greater participation in the parish.
4. welcome people outside of our faith to offer community and enrichment activities that will encourage other faiths to participate.
5. provide opportunities and resources for a multi-language parish as our parish continues to grow.

LEADERS: Helen Richards-Fisher (770-991-4911);
Carmen Dollinger (770-946-3326);
E-mail: community@stphilipbenizi.org

TEAM MEMBERS: Bettye Bertrand, Sharon Bilyeu, Leonard Chambliss,
Kathy Cirincione, Lolita Cortez, Carlos Diaz, Cory Luna, Marie Menard,
Dennis Pasch, Sr., Ruby Sibernagel, Michelle Vandemark.

PRIORITY AREA: EDUCATION

VISION LINK: Growing in Faith; Spreading the Gospel of Love.

MISSION OF PRIORITY AREA: St. Philip Benizi Parish seeks to develop parishioners' understanding of their Catholic faith through catechesis and in the context of Sacred Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the teachings of the Magisterium of the Church, and Church history.

INCLUDED IN THIS AREA: In addition to those educational programs and sacramental preparation classes already in place, we strive to identify and provide a variety of activities, formats and learning opportunities for parishioners of all ages that focus on Catholic teachings and practices.

IN THREE YEARS, St. Philip Benizi Parish will:

1. increase participation of parishioners in their Catholic Faith Formation by offering more Home Study Groups and self-education methods.
2. increase offerings of Social Justice and Faithful Citizenship teachings of the Church on an on-going basis, not only in election years.
3. educate parishioners in the Catholic Faith; enable and provide practical applications (Life Skills) in areas of Finances, Parenting and Family Communication.
4. seek trained staff members/volunteers to carry out the above three goals.

LEADERS: Deacon Greg Pecore (770-478-0415);
Tom Gautreaux (678-610-7055);
E-mail: edu@stphilipbenizi.org

TEAM MEMBERS: Sue Alvarez, Althea Fletcher, Ruth Julu-Baysah, Peter Mahmood, Mary Mauldin, Dr. David Mgbeokwere, Victoria Panther, Eileen Powell.

PRIORITY AREA: EVANGELIZATION

VISION LINK: Light of Christ; Living, Serving and Spreading the Gospel of Love.

MISSION OF PRIORITY AREA: In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Philip Benizi Parish seeks to imbue in its membership an enthusiasm to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in all moments and experiences of life.

INCLUDED IN THIS AREA: How can we inspire the membership of St. Philip Benizi Parish to embrace and live the Mission of Evangelization?

IN THREE YEARS, St. Philip Benizi Parish will:

1. be a living witness of faith in Jesus Christ by sharing the spirit of His love, by communicating His message to our neighbors, by being hospitable in welcoming visitors, and by being committed to His Church.
2. have an expanded “New Parishioner” Ministry where new members to St. Philip Benizi Parish are welcomed with open arms and personally mentored, with a goal of spiritual growth and parish involvement (i.e. big brother/sister program).
3. have an established ministry that seeks to bring non-practicing Catholics back to the Church.
4. have an expanded “Shut-in and Hospital Visitation” Program that reaches out to those who cannot attend Mass.

LEADERS: Sandy Carrington (770-964-9787);
Paul Schwahn (770-603-2875);
E-mail: evangelization@stphilipbenizi.org

TEAM MEMBERS: Deacon Joe Anzalone, Roger Atkins, Alicia Dery, Louella DuBose, Kay Fain, Tammy Love, Matiana Rios, Carlos Rivera, Brian Robinson, Rose Satkowiak, Frances Weikers, Phillip Wesley, Teri Williamson.

PRIORITY AREA: SOCIAL JUSTICE

VISION LINK: Light of Christ; Living, Serving and Spreading the Gospel of Love.

MISSION OF PRIORITY AREA: The community of St. Philip Benizi, linked together through the love of God, is called to serve as one family, embracing our differences and recognizing that Life is sacred. We strive to pursue peace, to protect human dignity, and work towards justice for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Corporal Works of Mercy

1. Feed the hungry
2. Give drink to the thirsty
3. Clothe the naked
4. Shelter the homeless
5. Visit the sick
6. Visit those in prison
7. Bury the dead

INCLUDED IN THIS AREA: How can we better serve those in our parish of St. Philip Benizi, as well as our local and international communities?

IN THREE YEARS, St. Philip Benizi Parish will:

1. have stronger community outreach through ministries/services of the parish.
2. have an established Counseling Office, staffed by trained volunteers, to provide multi-lingual counseling and services to meet the emotional, financial and physical needs of the community.
3. identify a process that will notify and mobilize the faith community on Social Justice issues being presented for legislation (e.g.: *Atlantans Building Leadership for Empowerment* [A.B.L.E.]).

LEADERS: Tina Knight (770-473-6433);
Antoinette Odusanya (770-389-4564);
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TEAM MEMBERS: Cecile Bregman, Robert Carroll, Carol Fleming, Carol Gossett,
Mary Harmon, Yvonne Mongue, Mary Ann Studaway.

PRIORITY AREA: SPIRITUALITY

VISION LINK: Light of Christ; Growing in Faith; Living; Spreading the Gospel of Love.

MISSION OF PRIORITY AREA: St. Philip Benizi Parish is committed to providing the means by which each member may deepen their relationship with God. Through inspirational and uplifting liturgies, meaningful and challenging homilies, opportunities for prayer and sacrament, participation in spiritually based groups, and devotion to the Eucharist, parishioners are encouraged to practice their faith and be living witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

INCLUDED IN THIS AREA: How might we better enhance the liturgical and devotional life of our parish members?

IN THREE YEARS, St. Philip Benizi Parish will:

1. have increased the awareness of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.
2. have effectively promoted all existing spiritual programs and ministries to all parishioners.
3. increase the participation of 18 – 40 year old parishioners in the Spiritual Life of the Parish.
4. have encouraged parents to create a spiritual environment in their homes.
5. have enhanced the Music Ministry for all age groups and reflect ethnic diversity.

LEADERS: Edward Arominski (770-961-7824);
Denis D’Almeida (678-284-0557);
E-mail: spirituality@stphilipbenizi.org

TEAM MEMBERS: David Ashe, Cheryl Beiter, Charles Bolds, Mirta Casal, Kevin Faulkner, John Fernandes, Antoinette Irons, Carol Keaton, Bernadette Loncke, Gordon Satkowiak, Peter Swan, Maria Torres.

PRIORITY AREA: STEWARDSHIP

VISION LINK: Living, Serving and Spreading the Gospel of Love.

MISSION OF PRIORITY AREA: St. Philip Benizi Parish, as a community of faith, believes that everything we have is a “gift” from God. It seeks to promote a commitment to Lay leadership and ministry, calling forth from its membership, their responsibility to share time, talent and treasure.

INCLUDED IN THIS AREA: How might each one of us better live up to our Baptismal obligation to exercise our time, talent and treasure?

IN THREE YEARS, St. Philip Benizi Parish will:

1. have added a Stewardship dimension to the welcoming process.
2. have connected the spirituality of Time, Talent and Treasure so that the use of “Good Steward” envelopes improves year to year.
3. have created an environment which compels everyone to a “Good Steward” lifestyle.

LEADER: Bob Arnold; E-mail: stewardship@stphilipbenizi.org.

TEAM MEMBERS: Chip Acker, Alex Atkinson, Sr., Maurice Bertrand, Felicita Cartagena, Willie Cowan, Whitney Dorsel, Doug Faber, Bob Hoyle, Ubaldo Rios, Julie Sanchez, Marcos Suarez.

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the Evangelization Planning Committee, the Focus Group Leaders, all parishioners and staff members who participated in and/or assisted with the ENVISION Questionnaire, Focus Group meetings, Listening Day, Discernment Day, Visioning Day, and the Priority Area Teams. We thank everyone for their prayers and support thus far during the ENVISION process and ask for your continued prayers as we move forward to implement the Parish Plan in the next three years. May God bless our efforts and guide our steps.

Evangelization Planning Committee

Fr. Gregory Hartmayer, OFM Conv. (Pastor)
Fr. Andrew Santamauro, OFM Conv.
Fr. Thomas Reist, OFM Conv.
Fr. Mark-Thomas Booth, OFM Conv.
Fr. Abelardo Huanca, OFM Conv.
Fr. Oscar Torrez, OFM Conv.
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Deacon Etienne Rodriguez
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Meg Atkinson
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Sandy Carrington
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Earl Flock
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Bernadette Loncke
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Phillip Wesley

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Yone Daly

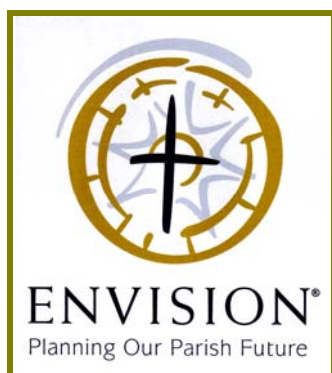
Vision Statement Team Members

BLUE TEAM

Bob Romeo, Chair
Deacon Joe Anzalone
Meg Atkinson
Lolita Cortez
Yone Daly
Sue Nemchik
Daniel Puerto
Matiana Rios

RED TEAM

Elmer Cortez, Chair
Sue Crawford
Marie Menard
Tom Nemchik
Julie Sanchez
Maria Torres
Phillip Wesley



Prayer for the Church

**Almighty God,
My parish family is composed of people like me.
I help make it what it is.
It will be friendly, if I am.
Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.
It will do great work, if I work.
It will make generous gifts to many causes,
if I am a generous giver.**

**It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship,
if I invite and bring them.
It will be a parish family of loyalty and love,
of fearlessness and Faith,
and a parish with a noble spirit,
if I – who make it what it is –
am filled with these same qualities.**

**Therefore, with the help of God, I will dedicate myself
to the task of being all the things
that I want my parish family to be.
Bless my journey, Lord God, that I might build the Church
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**