

Question 2:

“What projects are most likely to be accomplished in the next 3-5 years by Our Lady of Mercy and its parishioners?”

Response to Question 2:

Pastoral Initiatives:

1. Youth Ministry (16)
2. Director of Religious Education (15)
3. Church Website (7)
4. Promoting the Sacrament of Marriage (3)

Building & Property Initiatives:

1. School Building Remodel & Use Designation (15)
2. Repair/Replace the Church A/C (11)
3. Bell Tower Restoration (9)
4. Parish Hall Repair & Remodel (9)
5. New Parish Office & Meeting Room Complex (5)
6. Property Acquisition (0)

In addition to those items listed above, one additional item was identified through this process. The use of **social networking** (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) as a medium to reach youth and others in the church was identified as a possible opportunity to consider. This item is being considered to be incorporated into the existing Pastoral Initiative to develop a church website.

The members of Council and the Committee were also asked to identify different methods in which these initiatives could be funded. Below is a collection of those ideas generated by the members. They are not listed in any particular order.

- Rent out the Parish Hall, keeping concession sales
- Grants
- Loans
- Benefactors of a will
- Quarterly BBQ's
- Raffles
- Garage Sales
- Dances (Hall)
- Long-term low-interest loans
- Donations
- Jamaica
- Church Auctions
- Youth / Adult Car Wash
- Pledges for Buildings—long range
- Spring Fest
- Fiestas Patrias
- Car Raffle (2 of them)
- Collaborative fundraiser between all church organizations
- Stewardship
- Cost reduction on insurance
- “Bell Bank” for youth to contribute to Bell Tower project
- Petition people for funds
- Summer Raffle

Current discussions related to the future and long range outlook for Our Lady of Mercy are not limited by these discussion, however, they do serve to point our Parish in a specific direction and guide us in planning and preparing for the future. Furthermore, these discussions are in their early stages and this report is not intended to commit us to any of these initiatives. There remains a great amount of work and discussion to narrow and fine tune these discussions and focus on those initiatives that are a priority of the Parish, those that we can likely accomplish in the short-term and long-term, and find sustainable ways to fund them. The future of our Parish is in our hands and in the hands of God. With faith, determination, and a commitment to the growth of Our Lady of Mercy in the coming years we can not only grow in our own faith but grow a community of faith for ourselves and our children.