

PREFACE

The mission and structure of the Queen of All Saints Men's Club are designed to draw the men of the Parish together, to provide multiple points of entry (social, service, spiritual), and to build upon initial engagement to welcome all men into the life of the Parish.

PURPOSE

Last September, Monsignor Pollard summoned the leadership of the various Ministries and Organizations of Queen of All Saints Parish in order to discuss declining attendance at Sunday Mass. The purpose to the meeting was to attempt to devise some strategies to reverse that trend. The stated Archdiocesan goal is to increase attendance by 20%. To that end, Monsignor Pollard encouraged us to adopt evangelization as an energizing force into the activities of the Club. In doing so, he suggested four energizing strategies for us to employ: begin to reorient toward outreach and not so much towards maintenance; renew the sense of welcome to the Church and to do our best to suspend suspicion and harsh judgment of others; restate the truth that the Church teaches; and that we as an organization consider ways to bring those on the shelf towards the church. He asked that each ministry undertake an evangelization audit and ask what do we as an organization do to proclaim the good news and what can we do in light of evangelization in planning future activities.

SCOPE

We examined the last three years of Club activities, Monthly Meeting minutes, Board of Directors Meeting minutes, and our Mission Statement. We also sought input from members of the School Council and Parish Council, convened a special meeting of all past and the current Club President, made it the main agenda topic of our 2011 Board of Directors Meeting and consulted with Father Simon. We examined what we do as an organization to proclaim the good news and what can we do in light of evangelization in planning future activities. The audit identified the activities of the Club and examined how these activities served to welcome and reach out to the community, the Archdiocese and society at large. It also analyzed how these activities helped us to share our relationship with Christ with others and how these activities serve to bring those on the shelf towards the Church.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Queen of All Saints Men's Organization provides outlets for the service, spiritual and social dimensions of the men of the parish.

The organization and its members participate in the life of the church, are involved in the projects and ministries of the parish, and provide physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial resources where and when they are needed.

Members are active family men – committed partners, loving sons, and devoted fathers.

The organization reaches out to the community, the archdiocese, and to society at large through service that reflects our role as Disciples of Christ.

Our values are simple and enduring:

- Committed to Christ, our families and the community
- Generous in spirit and deed
- Willing to work and guaranteed to have fun
- Open and welcoming to all men of the parish

WORKING COMMITTEES

Social – Organize and coordinate social life of the club

Service – Identify, organize and coordinate service projects within and beyond the Parish borders

Spiritual Committee – Create and host spiritual programs and content for the club

Membership – Focus on outreach and recruitment of new members, as well as sustaining involvement of continuing members

LARGE BOARD MODEL

The Men's Group has adopted a large board model to maximize involvement, sustainability and succession management. Initial bylaws were presented and approved at the May 2001 general meeting. The first Board formed on a formal basis beginning in September 2001. Bylaws are revised periodically to maintain effective governance.

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	Maintenance	Outreach	Restate the Truth	Evangelization
Mission Statement	Members participate in the life of the Church, are involved in her projects and ministries. We also provide physical, emotional, spiritual and financial support	Open and welcoming to all men of the Parish	The Men's Club reaches out to the community, the archdiocese, and society at large through service that reflects our roles as disciples of Christ.	Values are simple and enduring: Committed to Christ, our families and the community. Generous in spirit and deed.
Monthly Meeting	Provides fellowship and camaraderie. Provides outlets for the service, social and spiritual dimensions of the men of the club.	All men of the parish are welcome to attend. We invite others via email, word of mouth, bulletin and edline. Encourage members to "bring a friend".	Opening prayer. Spiritual Chairs report on agenda items. Spiritual Committee oversees ongoing activities expressing the spiritual mission of the club.	The more we weave into our activities the noble doctrines that have long nourished, blest and guided us, the steadier we become.
Website	Promotes the Club's mission and purpose	Invites and encourages all interested individuals to attend and / or join.	Makes it clear we are committed to Christ, the Archdiocese, the parish and the School.	Encourages and invites all interested individuals to attend or join. Appeals to various dimensions; Social, service and Spiritual.
Group E-Mail	Communicates the activities and events of the men's Club. Provides a social and a spiritual connection.	Is not limited to members only. Anyone who wishes to monitor the activities of the Club is welcome.	Spiritual reflections. Messages of support, sympathy and encouragement. Promotes a Catholic agenda.	Promotes camaraderie and fellowship, spiritual reflections, recruitment and service.
Apparel, Banners & Signs	Promotes a sense of belonging, camaraderie and fellowship.	Markets the Club, shows our strength through unity, encourages others to inquire about the Club.	Identifies the Parish and ourselves as Catholics and shows we are proud of the same.	Displays pride on our roles as disciples of Christ. Markets the Parish and increases service visibility (evangelization by example).
Financial Support	We are a self-funded non-profit group. Tithing's in the form of desks and high powered microscopes support the School and the Parish.	Support is not limited to the Parish. Agencies like Catholic Charities and the Albany Park Food Bank and Miseracordia are supported as well.	Tithing's from the heart free up the resources of the Parish and Archdiocese allowing them to focus on more important communal matters.	Help to undergrid the total evangelistic outreach and nurturing ministries of the church. Take the lead on electronic giving.
Bulletin, Edline, Sounds	Spreading the news about the Club and its events and activities promotes us in a positive way thereby increasing awareness and enhances perception.	Markets the Club, hopefully encourages others consider joining our mission.	Examples of service and devotion to the Parish, Archdiocese, the Community, and our families show we lead by example.	Meeting announcements at Sunday Mass, Edline and Bulletin pages encouraging attendance and participation.
Recruitment	Constantly attracting new members to the club allows us to grow and flourish as an organization. We are building a legacy greater than any member.	Recruitment is outreach. We seek exemplary Men devoted to promulgating the stated mission of the Club.	Provides spiritual outlets in a group setting. Promotes friendship and support.	Project targeting younger and first time fathers. Continue bring a friend campaign.

<u>SPIRITUAL</u>	Maintenance	Outreach	Restate the Truth	Evangelization
Fellowship & Support	Social needs are essentially spiritual in nature.	One can be understood in part through the friends he has gained.	Meeting social needs opens doors to sharing faith and spiritual nurture enhances the social interaction.	Friendship both presupposes and fosters other human virtue, such as selfless giving, understanding, compassion, and the spirit of collaboration.
Spiritual Retreats	A balanced man puts prayer, his family and friends above all other concerns.	A way to take one's relationship with God and one's practice deeper.	Readies us to articulate our reason for hope.	Put in mind the life we show for Christ and the life we share in Christ.
Weekly and Monthly Spiritual Meetings	A balanced man puts prayer, his family and friends above all other concerns.	To build up and enrich others so that the aspirants may keep tuned to the Shepherd.	Readies us to articulate our reason for hope.	Promoting spiritual transformation which remolds a person's lifestyle, character and attitude in an uplifting way.
Circle of Friends Masses	A balanced man puts prayer, his family and friends above all other concerns. Confessions offered to members and their wives.	We are called to be Christians together and while we can and should engage in private worship, our primary form of worship is public and communal.	A banquet in which the faithful participate through their presence and their role in the liturgy and through the reception of Holy Communion.	There is the promise of a special visitation whenever we gather in His name.
Men's Club Mass	A balanced man puts prayer, his family and friends above all other concerns.	We are called to be Christians together and while we can and should engage in private worship, our primary form of worship is public and communal.	A banquet in which the faithful participate through their presence and their role in the liturgy and through the reception of Holy Communion.	Going to mass is a visible, tangible expression of our love and worship toward God. It is where we can gather with other believers to publicly bear witness.
Spiritual Messages on Agenda & Email Reflections	Messages that help us to sustain spiritual fervor and dedication.	A spiritual maintenance program that helps to keep our Christian lives effective and meaningful.	Sharing our relationship with Christ with our friends.	Promoting spiritual transformation which remolds a person's lifestyle, character and attitude in an uplifting way.
Opening Prayer at Meeting	Start each meeting with a prayer as a reminder of our mission and purpose as Disciples of Christ.	Welcome one another as Christ welcomes us.	So the matters discussed serve as a catalyst to move us forward and cause us to advance and see growth in all areas of our lives.	Pray for guidance in the matters at hand and ask that we be shown how to conduct our work with a spirit of joy and enthusiasm.
Mass Cards/Funeral	Offering given in faith and honor of a loved one.	The gift of prayer during a time of sorrow.	Remember the dead in the prayers of the faithful and during the Eucharistic prayer.	Reminder that the gift of God is eternal life.
Masses at Sharing Parishes	Sharing communion with the wider Catholic community in Chicago.	Connecting with our brothers and sisters in other parishes.	Providing a living example of our universal faith by taking our families.	Fellowship is enriching for participants from both parishes.

<u>SERVICE</u>	Maintenance	Outreach	Restate the Truth	Evangelization
UPP	Members take the lead to help ensure the financial needs of the Parish are met.	Preserving the infrastructure and financial strength, and well-being of the parish in order to grow the congregation.	Tithing's from the heart free up the resources of the Parish and Archdiocese allowing them to focus on more important communal matters.	Stewardship encompassing the sharing of our time, talents, and treasure for the support of the Parish.
June BBQ & Oktoberfest	Men's Club members are willing to work and guaranteed to have fun.	Provide a reason to prefer our congregation by creating a culture of choice.	Help to make the parish a welcoming community, ready to share the good news.	Social activity as a bridge to evangelism.
Teacher BBQ	Allows us to express our gratitude to those who are dedicated to enriching the lives of our children.	Giving as a spiritual practice that reflects our discipline and ethic of gratitude.	Underscores our commitment and support of the teachers and of the Eucharistic mission of the school. .	Responsible sharing of our time, talents and treasure for the support of the community and the mission of the church.
Catholic Charities	Willingly spend our time and resources to perform meaningful and fulfilling acts.	Conduct ourselves with integrity, charity, and compassion.	Show our faith in God through our kindness to others.	Social responsibility as an evangelical commitment
Special Events	Members are involved in the projects and ministries of the Parish, and provide physical, emotional, spiritual and financial support as needed.	Examples of service and devotion to the Parish, Archdiocese, the Community, and our families show we lead by example.	Help to make the parish a welcoming community, ready to share the good news.	Responsible sharing of our time, talents and treasure for the support of the community and the mission of the church.
Nativity Scene	Members are committed to Christ, our families and the community.	Let's people know that the story is here and we are willing to bear witness	The Nativity Scene is a powerful symbol of Christianity.	Serves to remind all of the true meaning of Christmas
Easter Egg Hunt	Allows us to express our love for children and to show them that there is a place for them in the Parish.	Reconciles the seasonal joy and celebration of Easter with pagan inspired rituals by holding the event on the Parish campus.	Examples of service and devotion to the Parish, Archdiocese, the Community, and our Families show we lead by example.	Social activity as a bridge to evangelism.
Food/Blood Drives	Reach out to the community and society at large through service that reflects our roles as disciples of Christ.	Encourage others to commit themselves to a more active fulfillment via social responsibility.	Social uplift allows people to move from their felt needs to their deeper needs.	Social responsibility as an evangelical commitment
Misericordia Candy Days	Willingly spend our time and resources to perform meaningful and fulfilling acts.	Conduct ourselves with integrity, charity, and compassion.	Show our faith in God through our kindness to others.	Social responsibility as an evangelical commitment.

<u>SOCIAL</u>	Maintenance	Outreach	Restate the Truth	Evangelization
Golf Classic	Provides fellowship and camaraderie; allows for opportunity to market the Club and to help attract new members.	Networking integral to the Mission of the Club and Parish.	The Club is strategic in direction, entrepreneurial in methods and Eucharistic in purpose.	Help to undergird the Mission of the Club and grow the Parish.
Bowling Night	Members are active family men, committed partners, loving sons and devoted fathers.	Allows members and their wives to interact building and supporting a social and professional network of like mind and faith.	Interpersonal relationships with others are needed to keep faith glowing and growing.	The more we weave into our activities the noble doctrines that have long nourished, blest and guided us, the steadier we become.
Member Hosted Socials	Interpersonal relationships with others are needed to keep faith glowing and growing.	Belief that the physical, spiritual, moral and relationship dimensions of human nature are intertwined.	Integrate the great Commission (to make disciples) with the great Commandment (love thy neighbor).	When a person holds the Eucharist with respect and reverence, their friends take notice.
Friday Night Movies	Members are active family men, committed partners, loving sons and devoted fathers.	Social activity that allows the fathers of the Club to spend time with their children	Help the youngest to understand that they have a place in the Parish.	The more we weave into our activities the noble doctrines that have long nourished, blest and guided us, the steadier we become.
Concerts and Movies on the Basilica Lawn	Club members are willing to work and guaranteed to have fun.	Provide a reason to prefer our congregation by creating a culture of choice.	Help to make the Parish a welcoming community ready to share the good news.	Social activity as a bridge to evangelization.
Inter-Parish Softball Games with Mass in Park	Friendly competition building a social and professional network with others of like mind and faith.	Belief that the physical, spiritual, moral and relationship dimensions of human nature are intertwined.	Preach the Gospel at times, if necessary use words.	When a person holds the Eucharist with respect and reverence, their friends take notice.
Pub Crawl	Marketing tool that attracts potential Members to the Club, for many it serves as their 1st exposure.	Softens reserve, recruitment is a process of conversation and discipleship.	Different Ministry aims for different contexts.	It is an unorthodox way to bring those on the self towards the Club and the Church.
Christmas Party	Members are active family men, committed partners, loving sons and devoted fathers.	Allows members and their wives to interact building and supporting a social and professional network of like mind and	Help to make the Parish a welcoming community ready to share the good news.	Social activity as a bridge to evangelization.

<u>SOCIAL</u>	Maintenance	Outreach	Restate the Truth	Evangelization
Sports Outings (Cubs/Sox/ Blackhawks)	Provides fellowship and camaraderie; allows for opportunity to market the Club and to help attract new members.	Networking integral to the Mission of the Club.	Using sport or other mutual interests as a tool for sharing.	Social activity as a bridge to evangelization.
Theater Outings	Members are active family men, committed partners, loving sons and devoted fathers.	Allows members and their wives to interact building and supporting a social and professional network of like mind and	Help to make the Parish a welcoming community ready to share the good news.	Social activity as a bridge to evangelization.
Poker Nights	Members help to provide financial support and resources.	Preserving infrastructure and financial well- being of the Parish in order to grow the congregation.	Help in a small way to free up the resources of the Parish allowing them to focus on spreading the Gospel.	Help to undergird the Mission of the Club and grow the Parish.
Bears/Hawks Game Viewing	Provides fellowship and camaraderie; allows for opportunity to market the Club and to help attract new members.	Networking integral to the Mission of the Club.	Using sport or other mutual interests as a tool for sharing.	Social activity as a bridge to evangelization.
NCAA Finals Party	Provides fellowship and camaraderie; allows for opportunity to market the Club and to help attract new members.	Provides an "easy ask" for members to invite neighbors to an event in Parish facilities	Camaraderie at the event provides opportunities to demonstrate our faith by example (e.g., related games and pools that support the Parish and provide fun)	This event was designed as a social "hook" to draw men back to QAS via a Men's Club social event - the large screen, free pizza, etc. are intentionally inviting
Sunday Night Basketball	Provides an entry point for men who might otherwise not be involved in the club and/or the parish	Creates ongoing linkage and friendship with active members and active parishioners - including officers and founding members	Teamwork and friendship are an opportunity to express our Catholic values	A ready venue for invitations to deeper involvement in the life of the parish - while on the campus and in the building

RECOMMENDATIONS

As stated in the Mission Statement and revealed in the Audit grids, the members of the Queen of All Saints Men's Club participate in the life of the church, become involved in the projects and ministries of the Parish and provide physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial resources where and when they are needed. The very mission and structure of the Club are designed to draw the men of the Parish together by providing multiple points of interest (social, spiritual, service) and to build upon initial engagement to welcome all into the life of the Parish. The Club is strategic in its direction, entrepreneurial in its methods and Eucharistic in purpose. Actively and strategically recruiting new members with Pastoral support allows the Club to flourish as an organization while at the same time helps to attract men committed to Christ, their families and the community. While those targeted are already Parishioners or likely will be, once members, they are also likely to be more inclined towards Stewardship, sharing their time, talent and treasure for the benefit of the Parish.

1. **Continue to Earn Pastoral Support:** This vital support must be earned and continually cultivated if it is to be preserved. In turn, it is essential that the Men's Club continue to receive spiritual guidance, mentoring and support from the Pastoral staff. Monsignor Pollard, Monsignor Prist, Father Trout and Father Simon have all been very generous with their time, effort and support for the Men's Club and it's Mission. It is of paramount importance that a member of the Pastoral staff remains willing to serve as our spiritual mentor and guide. We've survived and thrived as an entity because we have been able to maintain this relationship despite transition.
2. **Conduct a Survey:** Conduct a survey of Men's Club members in the first quarter of 2012 to gain insights into reasons for involvement (or lack thereof). While membership is strong, only half the membership is actively involved. We need to determine what resonates with the general membership and seek feedback as to our strengths and weaknesses. There is no better way to recruit those on the precipice than to ask what we are doing right, what we are doing wrong and what more can we do that would invite involvement? Solicit ideas for opportunities, events and projects. How are we perceived and how do we want to be perceived? Utilize the results to help determine the direction of the Club in 2012 and 2013.
3. **Recruitment Initiative:** Formulate and implement a recruiting plan that specifically targets newer parishioners, first time fathers and the fathers of students in the pre-k to third grade demographic. Utilize Parish, School, and Religious Education registrations to identify potential individuals, friends and neighbors, and

have existing members extend personal invitations to attend meetings, events and service projects. Establish mentoring relationships with potential recruits. Use visible service projects to draw in individuals looking for causes or reasons to become involved. Create social events such as Men's Club versus Religious Education Fathers or Kindergarten Fathers basketball games as a means of softening reserve and introduction. Utilize existing events such as Movie Night and Bowling Night to entice those reluctant to become involved. Consider adding social events such as "A Day at the Races" and "Baggo Tournament."

4. **Increase Visibility:** Public relations outreach through media such as the Parish Bulletin, Ed Line, Sauganash Sounds, Nadig Reporter, Men's Club website and QAS Alumni Facebook. Regular periodic columns advertising events, meetings, projects and accomplishments as a means of marketing the Mission of the Club. Sponsor and increase the number of family friendly parish events such as free concerts and movies on the Basilica Lawn. Seek rewarding service projects that will attract socially responsible participants. Align with Religious Education to coordinate service hour opportunities and projects and offer service hour opportunities via the Men's Club to High School and Middle School Students.
5. **Expand Spiritual Agenda:** Seek permission to add a second Men's Club Parish Mass, ensure Men's Club presence at grade school family masses, and reinvigorate sharing Parish Sunday visit. Sponsor and host an inspirational / celebrity speaker forum for Catholic Athletes. Align with QAS bereavement ministry to provide greater member support and develop a formal protocol for funeral and / or illness notices.

www.qasmensclub.com