

Building Blocks

The St. Therese Parish Transformation Team chose three building blocks to guide us in the mission of the Universal Church.

- **Evangelization:** "Evangelizing means bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation and seeking to convert individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself" (USCCB). This act of evangelizing can be applied to any situation and to any person, believers and non-believers. Every Catholic is tasked with this duty of spreading the joy of the Gospel and the salvation it offers everyone. We joyfully take up the responsibility of evangelizing our brothers and sisters in St. Therese, Chinatown and beyond.
- **Missionary Spirit:** In a world where people are still suffering under poverty, persecution, oppression, war, and injustice, missionaries are needed to ease this human anguish by witnessing to the light, love, and hope of Christ. Our role model Jesus Christ fed the hungry, healed physical and spiritual wounds, and spoke out against injustice as he preached, and by our baptism, we, too, are called to follow and share in this ministry of caring for God's people in faith and in actions. We depend upon the Holy Spirit for guidance and assistance in our missionary work.
- **Chinese Apostolate:** In 1947, the Archdiocese of Chicago named our parish the Center for Chinese Apostolate, a role that calls us to minister to the Chinese Catholics of the Archdiocese and to the Chinese immigrants of our communities. We enthusiastically respond to this call. We will focus especially on the needs of these brothers and sisters, embracing all, and welcoming everyone to celebrate the sacraments of the Catholic Church and the ethnic traditions of their cultures.



*Chinese Madonna and Child
Tang Yin (1470-1523)*

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St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church and School
聖德力華人天主教堂暨學校

St. Therese Parish Transformation 2015-2018

Who We Are

Rooted in prayer and scripture, we envision our parish to be missionary disciples who share the Good News with everyone we encounter. Inspired by our patron saint, St. Therese of Lisieux, Patron of the Missions, we seek to be an instrument of Jesus Christ in Chinatown and beyond.

We strive to be a parish with a strong personal and communal relationship with God. We utilize our greatest asset, our COMMUNITY, who welcomes all and serves the people in our neighborhood and surrounding areas by celebrating the sacraments, educating children, and serving the needy.

We are committed to strengthening our Evangelization efforts, instilling our parishioners with a Missionary Spirit, and recognizing and assuming responsibility for our role as the Center for Chinese Apostolate.

We consciously and intentionally endeavor to carry out the Church's mission of revealing God's infinite love and unwavering mercy for each and every Child of God. We do this by sharing the joy of the Gospel with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and scripture. As St. Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 5:14, "The love of Christ urges us on."



What is Parish Transformation?

It is a program designed to strengthen parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago and help them more effectively fulfill the mission that Jesus entrusted to us, his Church. Over the course of three months, the St. Therese Parish Transformation team worked hard to identify the gifts given to us and how those gifts can be used to further the Kingdom of God, and our team members also experienced great joy and a renewal of spirit deep within.

The community of people who make up our parish is our greatest asset. St. Therese is a COMMUNITY, which we believe is our biggest “Pearl of Great Price.” Our other “Pearls” are our multi-cultural backgrounds, school, welcoming spirit, sharing nature, and the Church itself. We intend to use these gifts during this Parish Transformation process to truly become the Church intended by God.

Finance

We will increase revenues to fully support these following Parish Transformation initiatives.

Church

- Utilize pledge programs, new donation venues, and education on Spiritual Stewardship to support Parish Transformation objectives.
- Invest in a full-time minister to assist with Parish Transformation initiatives.

School

- Accrue sufficient funds to secure a second school building.
- Construct a budget for the operating expenses of the second school building.

Mission

Our parishioners have expressed a desire to *evangelize*. We will develop *missionary disciples* and have the laity carry out the *Chinese Apostolate* mandate.



Evangelization

- Increase the number of trained, active Evangelizers.
- Evangelize parishioners.
- Welcome non-parishioners to parish events.
- Communicate availability of parish services.

Missionary Spirit

- Strengthen missionary spirit of all parishioners.
- Foster missionary spirit in confirmandi who are in the two-year program.
- Foster missionary spirit of those in RCIA.
- Educate sponsors/mentors about their roles.

Chinese Apostolate

- Foster and strengthen parish's relationship with the Chinese community (e.g., serving needs of new immigrants).
- Develop a bilingual online presence.
- Increase availability of written information in Chinese.
- Establish a Cantonese RCIA.

School

Governance

- Develop transition plan to revert back to a parish school governance model.

Catholic Identity

- Increase and improve Catholic presence in the student body.
- Expand and deepen school-church partnership to strengthen Catholic Identity.

Evangelization

- Evangelize more children in the community.
- Strengthen student spiritual development.
- Build stronger alumni-community relationship with parish to support fundraising.

Missionary Spirit

- Increase and diversify parental involvement at church and school.
- Leverage the public visibility gained from the school's successes to draw new students and parishioners to the parish.

