



Genesis Vicariate Pastoral Council

TO SHARE CHRIST IN AND THROUGH THE URBAN CHURCH

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"Together In Faith" Pastoral Planning Reflection Process April 11, 2011 Meeting ~ Groups I & II

Parishes present: Queen of Heaven, St. Bart – St. Rita, St. Hyacinth, St. Benedict, St. Gregory, St. Ladislaus, Madonna, Blessed Sacrament, St. Raymond, Good Counsel, Queen of Apostles

Parishes not present: St. Florian, Assumption Grotto, Transfiguration-OLHC, St. Louis the King

Parish Reflection Questions

Question 1: "Review the PEI from 2004-2005 for each parish. How have the parishes changed over the past 5 years? Have the original PEI plans describing the sacramental strategic and sustainable nature identified by each parish been implemented?"

Queen of Heaven: Don't know if PEI plans were implemented (not sure of the information in the PEI) or how people could follow up. Religious ed sustained for last 5 years.

St. Bart – St. Rita: They didn't have access to their PEI at the time of reflection. Merged with St. Rita; caused an increase but lost membership due to elimination of Sunday 11 a.m. Mass. Decrease in parish revenue. Lost 2 deacons in 5 years & changed pastors twice.

St. Hyacinth: Moving forward and continue to remain stable. Pastor continues work needed relative to PEI plans and sacramental statistics.

St. Benedict: Registered households declined over 66%. Clustered with 3 other parishes.

St. Gregory: Congregation decreased and a reduction of staff. Business mgr. retired - not replaced. New families coming in, but numbers haven't increased. Collections decreased. Now clustered with Madonna, Blessed Sacrament and St. Benedict.

St. Lad's: Clustering with Trans-OLCH and St. Louis the King. Plans implemented out of necessity. Parish donations decreased, parish is getting smaller.

Madonna: Capital Campaign is ongoing; increase in weekly contributions (encouraging parishioners to contribute more) Parishioners that left when the Mass schedule changed are returning.

Blessed Sacrament: PEI plans implemented. Decreasing population. Increase in sacraments in last 5 years.

St. Raymond: All numbers down, especially Mass participation over last year. More people that receive outreach come to Mass, inquisitive of what it means to be Catholic.

Good Counsel: Numbers have decreased. June 26th they'll be officially merged with St. Raymond. Number of sacraments are down.

Queen of Apostles: Some changes are downward; reached a point of stability. Baptism rate stable, Confirmations increased. Religious ed numbers up. Number of parishioners stabilizing; income stabilizing.

Question 2: Which parishes have experienced an increase or decrease in Catholic registered households and what do these trends indicate? How does this compare to general population changes?

Queen of Heaven: Decline in reg. households. Trends indicate decrease in the city and are in line with the population decline. Believe larger mergers are inevitable.

St. Bart-St. Rita: - Decrease in registered households. 11 a.m. Mass stopped, lost a lot of attendees. Neighborhood population increased, mostly non-Catholic.

St. Hyacinth: Population decreased yet registered households increased. 36 new associate parishioners. In a non-Catholic neighborhood; people moving have no effect on their numbers.

St. Benedict: Decline in registered households; increase in area business community gives them some hope.

St. Gregory: Decrease in membership. Tried evangelization, hasn't work too well.

St. Raymond: Decrease of Catholic population by 50% at parish level, neighborhood 15%.

Queen of Apostles: Registered households declined. Mass attendees that aren't parishioners don't give envelopes, trying to get them to join. Population increasing, most non-Catholic.

St. Lad's: Population increased; households decreased 75%. Having a hard time holding onto their own within city limits.

Blessed Sacrament: Decrease in city's population, they've had an increase but number fluctuates. They're on an upswing against general trend of the city. Holding their own.

Good Counsel: Decrease in Catholic population and income; community services increased by 1500 people serviced. Some donate to church & come to Mass, not registered parishioners. Percentage served that come to Mass = about 30%.

Madonna: In line with stats, not a significant decrease. Population that are parish members about 15%. Most live outside parish boundaries.

Question 3 – Do the sacramental trends reflect a pattern similar to what the general population has experienced over the past 15 years? Have the number of baptisms, weddings, confirmation, first communions and funerals in each parish increased or decreased proportionately? What does this mean for the general life of the parish?

Queen of Heaven: Trends changed over 15 years; fewer Catholic schools to bond with. General life of parish will diminish with time.

St. Bart – St. Rita: Trends follow Catholic population trends. They remain, but are a lot smaller. Funerals/Blessing of the Sick are only sacraments there's more of; all sacraments have decreased.

St. Hyacinth: Trends remained constant. Baptisms stayed the same. Weddings, confessions & communions increased; deaths decreased.

St. Benedict: Trends not decreased as much as parish population drop. Decrease proportionate to decline in parish population. Sacraments dropped by over 56%; funerals down 76%. Small membership growth lately.

St. Raymond: Trends reflect a pattern. Those in parish area aren't Catholic or churched.

St. Gregory: Kids make sacraments, then don't return. Having funerals, losing members, not getting new ones. Need to keep kids that make sacraments, bring them up in the Church;

Queen of Apostles: Sacraments down. When they had a school, they had a lot of sacraments, not sure how it reflects on today's stats. Decrease is in relation to registered households. Don't feel it reflects much; people there are life of the parish.

St. Lad's: Catholics decreased 80%, similar trend with baptisms & weddings. Funerals haven't decreased. Significant area of decrease is confessions & communions because children go to St. Florian or Q of A. Poles mostly not registered parishioners.

Blessed Sacrament: Sacraments don't reflect the trends; numbers are up. Households have increased.

Madonna: Sacraments, except funerals, going up; have an aging parish. Local Nigerian community has children, is growing. Trying to stimulate young people to get involved.

Good Counsel: On a decline because they're an aging parish. Grandparents are bringing kids, not the parents.

Question 4 – What percentage of parishioners live outside of their parish boundaries and why? Compared to other parishes in the planning group and vicariate? What does this mean to ministerial activities other than weekly Mass?

Queen of Heaven: 85% of parishioners live outside parish boundaries. City services, transportation, crime and lack of jobs are some reasons. Good block clubs, merchant participation in planning meetings could promote improved conditions, help area teens get meaningful employment. Ministerial decline exists today.

St. Bart - St. Rita: People moved north, left parishes here; 60% of parishioners live outside parish boundaries, trying to turn that around.

St. Hyacinth: 90% live outside parish boundaries, left area and it declined. All parishioners visited in the hospital or at home when they're sick.

St. Benedict: 70% live outside parish boundaries due to decline of neighborhoods, some never lived within parish boundaries. Some are staying to serve the poor and needy through outreach. Need an increase in ministerial activities to retain/attract more parishioners other than weekly Masses.

Queen of Apostles: 64% live in the boundaries; those that don't do so for personal reasons; crime, lack of services & jobs, etc.

St. Lad's: 45% live within parish boundaries; remained constant.

St. Raymond: 60% live outside parish boundaries. Why moved are usual reasons. Those living within boundaries have children telling them to move out of the city. Many are older widows/widowers, living in homes too big for them. Means you have to do more outreach to neighborhood community. Hard to do a youth program.

Blessed Sacrament: 77% live outside parish boundaries. Parishioners moved to suburbs, come back to parish. "Mother Church" of the Archdiocese, this has a big draw.

Madonna: 97% live outside parish boundaries. same reasons; economic conditions, housing, loss of jobs, etc. Challenge to bring parishioners back for activities.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

DOCUMENT DOWNLOAD LINKS

[EXPLANATION OF PHASE II DATA](#)

[EXPLANATION OF VICARIATE STATS](#)

[PARISH LIFE FINANCIAL DATA EXPLANATIONS](#)

[REASONABLE EXPECTATIONS FOR A PRIEST](#)

[TIF PHASE II BASIC ASSUMPTIONS](#)

[PARISH PLANNING GROUP 1 DATA \(Archdiocesan Website\)](#)

[PARISH PLANNING GROUP 2 DATA \(Archdiocese Website\)](#)

[ST. BART & CATHOLIC SCHOOL PLANNING INFORMATION](#)

[PARISH EVALUATION INVENTORIES \(PEI's\)
STATISTICS](#)

[PINPOINT MAPS](#)

[SACRAMENTAL](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Archibald
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