



Genesis Vicariate Pastoral Council

TO SHARE CHRIST IN AND THROUGH THE URBAN CHURCH

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"Together In Faith" Pastoral Planning Reflection Process March 14, 2011 Meeting ~ Groups I & II

Parishes present: Madonna, Blessed Sacrament, St. Gregory, St. Benedict, St. Bart-St. Rita, Queen of Heaven, St. Raymond-OLGC, Queen of Apostles, St. Louis the King, St. Hyacinth, St. Florian

Parish Reflection Questions

Question 1: "Look at the changes in housing types, housing tenure trends and foreclosure trends. What do these mean for the parishes in your planning group and vicariate? What parishes are facing the greatest housing challenges? What does this mean for the communities within the parish & vicariate boundaries?"

- **Madonna:** Reduced housing, reduced youth involvement
- **Blessed Sacrament:** Declining population area is a target for the '15x15 Program'; would like to piggyback their efforts to this program
- **St. Gregory:** Many local seniors, offers a weekly food donation program for senior citizens & the needy, more seniors than young people in the area, need to work on more senior programs
- **St. Benedict:** Occupied housing numbers have decreased; 1% of parishioners are from Highland Park
- **St. Bart-St. Rita:** Most parishioners live outside the area, strong housing keeps neighborhoods safe, good for community participation in events
- **Queen of Heaven:** slightly decreasing housing, one of the lowest populated areas, Dove Academy (charter school) is largest charter school in the Vicariate, has over 420 students
- **St. Raymond-OLGC:** Affordable housing, increase in crime, has food program and St. Vincent DePaul Society, wants to bring 'help-wanted' signs back to the parish & community
- **Transfiguration-OLHC:** Facing greatest challenge due to dilapidated housing conditions; mostly Muslim in surrounding area
- **Queen of Apostles:** more people renting than owning homes, some foreclosures, but stable housing
- **St. Louis the King:** movement away from the neighborhood, dilapidated housing, good government, police & fire dept.'s, large selection of ethnic foods/bakeries.
- **St. Hyacinth:** City replacing sidewalks, curbs and paving/repaving streets. Increased number of Wayne State University students renting in the area
- **St. Florian:** Population significantly shrinking, need to draw more people in from suburbs, Large immigrant population (Polish & Muslim)

Group Summary: Declining population, most parishioners come from the suburbs. Some areas have stable housing, while others are decreasing. Large immigrant population near the "Polonia" parishes.

Question 2: "How has job loss or growth affected each parish? How will the parishes address projected job loss or growth in the future?"

- **Madonna:** Not much effect, not many jobs in area; have holiday food & adopt-a-family programs, choir outreach
- **Blessed Sacrament:** Needs to reach out to those planning investments in the area, publish job openings; tap into block clubs & CDC that meet there
- **St. Gregory:** A lot of job loss in the area, also a lot of seniors. Provides soup lunches on Fridays, want to become closer to the community
- **St. Benedict:** Job growth in Highland Park; need to do evangelization in community
- **St. Bart-St. Rita:** Job loss affects Bart's school (lack of tuition), can also affect parish donations
- **Queen of Heaven:** Wants to have local business 'sponsor' children in community with jobs, get to know children in the community
- **St. Raymond-OLGC:** Some parishioners lost jobs, resulted in less donations; continued food program with 300+ families; going to point out 'help wanted' signs to parishioners and community
- **Queen of Apostles:** Decreasing income & number of parishioners; Hope to increase charitable donations, food pantries, job fairs/workshops, etc.
- **St. Louis the King:** Same as Q of A
- **St. Hyacinth:** GM biggest employer; 98% of parishioners live in the suburbs, weekly collections have been stable and consistent.
- **St. Florian:** No real business or job growth; need to look beyond aging neighborhood for parishioners

Group Summary: Some parishes face a lot of job loss so they'd like to reach out to investors, businesses in the area to bring jobs to the people in the parishes & community. Many have parishioners that live in the suburbs. Some face declining weekly donations and more people using their outreach services.

Question 3: "Look at the population change charts for 2005, 2010 and the projection for 2035. Where will there be the greatest population growth or loss in your planning groups and vicariate? What does this mean for the parishes, the communities, within their boundaries and nearby communities? For outreach and direct service/emergency needs? Services for other segments of the community?"

- **Madonna:** An aging parish impacted by deaths and job loss; Hope evangelization will help grow parish family numbers, some growth near Madonna
- **Blessed Sacrament:** Increasing number of seniors in the area, but no programs for them yet. Need to interact with the neighborhood, engage seniors
- **St. Gregory:** Increasing number of seniors, have some programming for them, need to let others in cluster know about programs
- **St. Benedict:** Decreasing senior population; looking to do more outreach; has a gym, youth programs & infant mortality group
- **St. Bart-St. Rita:** Projected population loss is non-Catholic, could lose community event support

- **Queen of Heaven:** Increasing senior numbers, less youth; want to reach out to block clubs, evangelize in their neighborhood & partner with Dove Academy
- **St. Raymond-OLGC:** Projecting fewer parishioners in the area; many outreach programs, Bible study
- **St. Louis the King & Transfiguration-OLHC:** STLK shows the greatest decline, means less money, less services, etc. Parishes will need to redistribute/share what types of outreach services each can offer
- **Queen of Apostles:** Some growth in area; would like to form an 'inter-parish' group to support Polish-Catholic traditions and partner with other parishes' outreach so there's no duplication of services
- **St. Hyacinth:** Same as Queen of Apostles
- **St. Florian:** Shows the most growth; wants to be part of 'inter-parish' group w/Q of A and St. Hyacinth for outreach & to keep Polish traditions alive.

Group Summary: The parishes are going to have an increasing number of seniors around them and need to have outreach & programming for them. We need to make use of the facilities we have and welcome the people into our worship. Many don't know about the resources we offer during the week and we need to get that information out to the communities.