



## **"Together In Faith" Pastoral Planning Reflection Process March 28, 2011 Meeting ~ Groups I & II**

**Parishes present:** Our Lady Queen of Apostles, St. Louis the King, St. Ladislaus, Transfiguration-Our Lady Help of Christians, St. Hyacinth, Our Lady Queen of Heaven, St. Raymond, Our Lady of Good Counsel, , St. Gregory, Church of the Madonna, St. Bartholomew-St. Rita, Assumption Grotto, Blessed Sacrament, St. Benedict

**Parishes not present:** St. Florian, Assumption Grotto

### **Parish Reflection Questions**

**Question 4:** "What percentage of the population was 65 and over in 2005 and how is that projected to change by 2035 in each parish? What types of services or ministries do the parishes provide for seniors? Is this currently an area of collaboration among parishes and how or could it be in the future?"

- **Madonna:** Pop. Change: +39% Services: 'Over 50' group with St. Gregory; Bible study on Weds. mornings; sponsor trips; starting Bingo in May; Food Pantry 2x a month. Would like collaboration with cluster parishes.
- **Blessed Sacrament:** Pop. Change: +29.9%. Services: Parishioners visit the homebound & sick, are supported by the seminary. Clustered with Madonna who has senior's group. Need to collaborate with cluster partners.
- **St. Gregory:** Pop. Change: +5% Services: Weds. Food Pantry; 'Over 50' group with cluster partners; parishioners' Mass transportation. Like to institute a 'phone call chain' for notification of the sick and the deceased (pass on funeral info).
- **St. Benedict:** Pop. Change: +77% Services: Weekly Food Pantry; Communion & Meal on Sundays for the homeless; SVdP Meals-on-Wheels & DHS Svcs. Would like collaboration w/cluster partners & other religious communities; establish food, friendship & phone calls to seniors.
- **St. Bart-St. Rita:** Pop. Change: +13% Services: Weekly Bingo; Christian Women's group; Bingo; Food Bank. Would like collaboration w/parishes & possibly a Health Fair.
- **Queen of Heaven:** Pop. Change: +48% Services: Weekly Card & Food social group; Food Pantry; Altar cleaning group; quarterly outing; St. Anne Society helps the homebound & provides transportation. Looking for young people to help with programs.
- **St. Raymond-OLGC:** Pop. Changes: OLGC - +59% St. Raymond: +84% Combined Services: Large, year-round Food Program; Senior lunches; Senior quilters; Altar Society; parish nurse; 'grandparents help'; Adult Bible study; Adult religious ed.
- **Queen of Apostles:** Pop. Change: +39% Programs: Senior's bingo, Dinners, Ushers Club, Christian Service group; health screenings; First Friday & Senior home visitation by Fr. Bogdan; St. Florian's Westiarki nuns do home visitation, run errands, etc. Would like parish collaboration.
- **St. Louis the King:** Pop. Change: +16% Services: Parish dinners; Rosary Society, Ushers Club; Food Pantry; Tuesday socials; Fr. Krol visits seniors.
- **St Ladislaus:** Pop. Change: +150% Services: Senior group; Soup Kitchen (first meeting).

- **Transfiguration-OLHC:** Pop. Change: +25% (Not called upon – first meeting). Weekly Bingo; monthly Food Pantry.
- **St. Hyacinth:** Pop. Change: +41% Services: Monthly senior Masses w/Benediction; home & hospital visits. Need to attract youth.

**Group Summary:** According to the external data, all parishes will experience growth in the number of seniors. Most have programs for seniors and would like to collaborate with other parishes to increase their range of services.

**Question 5:** “What is the percentage of change in school-age population for 2005 and 2010 and the projections for 2035? Has this change been reflected in religious education classes? Youth Ministry activities? How have the parishes addressed this change? What plans can be made for the future? What does this mean for the general life of the parishes?” Note: Population change numbers are from 2005 to projected 2035 stats.

- **Madonna:** Pop. Change: -19% (their numbers go against the data, youth 1-16 increasing). Activities: Youth minister; vibrant youth group; monthly youth lectors, altar servers, etc.; help w/Meals-on-Wheels; clean parish grounds. Need attraction/retention of youth.
- **Blessed Sacrament:** Pop. Change: -22% Activities: Sunday children’s liturgy w/activities; young altar servers, readers, etc.; vacation Bible school; parish picnic/children’s activity weekend; neighborhood kids use gym.
- **St. Gregory:** Pop. Change: -21% Activities: Religious ed classes; “Youth Sunday” with youth altar servers, readers, etc.; Bible study; collaboration w/Boy Scouts; send kids to Rainbow; Easter egg celebration; Halloween celebration; annual overnight ‘Lock In’ party. Would like to have weekend spiritual retreat.
- **St. Benedict:** Pop. Change: -45% Activities: Not many youth; no youth group or classes through parish; religious ed through cluster; gym has girl’s athletics w/Coach Mac; Rectory is base for youth ministry groups in area and houses college students.
- **St. Bart-St. Rita:** Pop. Change: -44% Activities: Mass 2x monthly w/children in St. Bart school. Need to attract & retain youth, have kids help w/parish garden & grounds, reduce tuition & implement grants for school for attraction/retention.
- **Queen of Heaven:** Pop. Change: -60% Activities: ‘Kids for Christ’ program. Would like to reach out to children at Dove Academy.
- **St. Raymond-OLGC:** Pop. Change: -72% St. Raymond: -64% OLGC. Activities: St. Raymond - Teen group; DRE works w/Hmong children; music; legal & cooking programs for kids; OLGC – legal program; working on Green initiative. Would like to collaborate w/ community leaders in neighborhood.
- **Queen of Apostles:** Pop. Change: -50% Activities: Religious ed.; youth altar servers; collaborate w/Polish scouting program at parish.
- **St. Louis the King:** Pop. Change: -48% Activities: Youth altar servers; encouraged to join choir.
- **St Ladislaus:** Pop. Change: -38% Activities: Religious ed at St. Florian; used to help w/tuition to Catholic schools.
- **Transfiguration-OLHC:** Pop. Change: -53% Activities: Religious ed at St. Florian; youth altar servers.
- **St. Hyacinth:** Pop. Change: -28% Activities: Altar server training; choir; Easter ‘Bunny Breakfast’; Annual Blessing of Polish Dance groups. Plan to continue these programs.

### **Planning Group Summary:**

Most parishes are going to experience a great loss of youth. Kids are generally altar servers, Bible school is available. There needs to be more programming for young people and the parishes need to take advantage of the youth minister they all pay for.

**Question 6:** "If there is a school within the planning group, how do these external data affect plans for the school(s)? Does the school planning affected the parish planning efforts and how? Where do Catholic children currently attend school within the planning group area (refer to maps)."

- **Madonna:** Going back to parish for info.
- **Blessed Sacrament:** Gives 15% support. Suggest all on east side support St. Bart school by sending children there and help w/transportation & evangelization.
- **St. Gregory:** Has charter school (CS) in school building.
- **St. Benedict:** Has CS Northpointe Academy owned by City of Highland Park. Suggested advertising St. Bart's so people know it's there.
- **St. Bart-St. Rita:** Has only Catholic school in vicariate. Trying to bring down tuition to increase attendance and need to appeal to all to send children to their school. They like the idea of helping children with transportation.
- **Queen of Heaven:** Renegotiating lease with Dove Academy CS, no Catholic school children. Had a weekend program for neighborhood kids; need to look at insurance costs, etc. to bring in the school children too. Would like to advance participation between parish & Dove.
- **St. Raymond-OLGC:** OLGC has DPS-owned school now empty. St. Raymond's school rented to DPS. Their 15% goes to OLGC to educate Hmong children.
- **Queen of Apostles:** Has CS, negotiating expansion. Youth in area mostly Islamic. Gives 15%, of which 5% is focused to St. Bart's. Give grants for kids to attend suburban Catholic schools, funding almost gone.
- **St. Louis the King:** No CS, currently not giving 15%.
- **St Ladislaus:** CS is Hamtramck Public Schools until end of year. Expressed need for Catholic school in the area.
- **Transfiguration-OLHC:** No CS, 2 rooms in school building rented out.
- **St. Hyacinth:** No CS - School building used for events & storage.

### **Planning Group Summary:**

Most of the parishes have rented out their buildings to Charter Schools and pay 15% of that income to the AOD. Not all pay the required 15%.

Parishes that lost their schools also lost youth in the parish. Families sending their children to Catholic schools outside the City tend to move to the suburbs, near the school their children attend.