



## **"Together In Faith" Pastoral Planning Reflection Process May 23, 2011 Meeting ~ Groups I & II**

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

**Parishes not present:** St. Florian, Assumption Grotto, Trans-OLCH, St. Louis the King

### **Parish Reflection Questions**

**1. Question 1: "EVANGELIZATION: "Does each parish have an Evangelization Committee? How do they implement the universal call to holiness and the mission of evangelization? How do the parishes promote the Gospel values by recognizing the dignity of all people?"**

**Group 1:** As of now, no; some had one in place, some starting one now. They'd like to reach out through choirs, revivals, festivals, food distribution, etc.

**Group 2:** We need to recognize as a group and create groups to accommodate. Challenge – difficulty working among non-Christians. Approx. 6000 Catholics in city, but not all coming to churches (non-practicing); none in on those fallen away.

**2. YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS: "How does each parish incorporate young people into activities of the parish? Is that reflected in the parish hopes and dreams for the future? Are young people educated about the role of service in our faith and encouraged to be involved in Christian service activities? Beyond religious education/catechesis, what resources are available to help parents and families build strong foundations of faith in the home?"**

**Group 1:** Would like children to become more involved through youth groups, vacation Bible studies, Boy Scouts, choir, youth servers, youth assisting with outreach, volunteering at events (card parties, etc.).

**Group 2:** Religious education, youth/kids choir, theatre group, Hope for America group. Some have active young lectors, altar servers. What resources are available – cd's, books, cable (EWTN), Polish catholic television (Trwam), reaching out to parents to encourage their children into the faith.

**3. CHRISTIAN SERVICE OUTREACH: "What kinds of Christian service activities does each parish provide to the neighborhood community? How are parishioners invited to share their skills and talents in these ministries? What types of regular donations/collections are there in support of local Christian service activities in the parishes?"**

**Group 1:** Food pantry, K of C, Breakfast with Santa, St. Vincent DePaul, St. Bart assists another parish with outreach and their parishioners can go there for assistance. OLQH and Blessed Sacrament lets kids use their gym for basketball and has neighborhood watch programs meet in their hall; offer facilities for other uses.

**Group 2:** Outreach Tasks take place on a regular basis/continuous – emphasis on holidays for all Polonia churches.

**4. LAY LEADERSHIP: "How are current and potential lay leaders engaged to discern their role(s) in each parish? How are lay leaders formed, supported and evaluated in their leadership role(s)?"**

**Group 1:** Most are formed by invitation; need to involve more people by asking them to volunteer and take part in activities, become ushers, use their talents to help the parish. Have usher programs, catechetical instructors, Eucharistic ministers, etc. OLGCC puts out flyers for classes for people to enhance their skills; take advantage of lay-leadership conferences offered by the AOD and SHS.

**Group 2:** By offering assistance as best we can. St. Florian - Polish language school - Pastor has meetings every month with teachers and parents to discuss engagement in parish life activities (family engagement). Queen of Apostles supports financial cost of catechism certification class (i.e.; tuition assistance).

**5. STEWARDSHIP/ADMINISTRATION: "How does each parish embrace and teach all aspects of Christian stewardship and discipleship? Are there both a stewardship commission and a finance council in each parish? How is parish financial information communicated to parishioners on a regular basis?"**

**Group 1:** A Finance Council has been mandated in all parishes. Some put financial information in their bulletin; other send quarterly financial report to parishioners homes. OLGCC made sure there was stewardship training when they clustered.

**Group 2:** How do we teach stewardship is part of being a Christian? Explain to people it is their role to take care of a parish. In order to keep church viable, turn in envelopes, ask for donations. Hold Christmas concerts, organ concerts and various breakfasts to raise money.

**6. CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD PLAN: "What is the role of the Catholic school in the context of these other key priorities in the life of the Church (evangelization, youth & young adults, Christian service, lay leadership, stewardship and administration)? What new and creative ways can unite parishes with schools and vice versa, so that the connection between school and parish is fostered and becomes a source of strength for the Church, even after a child has graduated from school?"**

**Group 1:** St. Bart's is going to be enhancing communication between the school and parishes. Cross-post website links from parishes to school; make sure the parishes know when the school is having events and help to advertise them. Create and enhance current alumni groups/gatherings. Encourage children to embrace their Catholic school heritage and keep in contact with people they went to school with. There's going to be a more concerted effort to keep all parishes apprised of activities, not only with St. Bart school, but other Catholic schools. The face of Catholic schools is changing; may become a regional or vicariate-based school.

**Group 2:** There are certainly enough children to attend, but is it financially feasible, no too much money to send children for catholic education (based on avg. wages). No discussion in the group for creative ways (for funding) as there is no school within planning group.

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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