

WRAP-UP

This information needs to be reported back to the larger community; your parish council, parishioners, etc. Msgr. LeFevre posted the "reflective questions" for everyone to see. You should ask your pastor if you can give an update during the announcements on Sunday. It is important that the parish community gets involved in this process. St. Hyacinth posted the 3 questions and how they answered them in their bulletin.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 28th at 6 p.m. The group was dismissed at 9:05 p.m.

St. Louis the King and Transfiguration-OLHC showed the greatest decline. A lot will depend on how successful Detroit is in rebuilding and the economy. We're surrounded by the community and hope to experience the positive results of the anticipated growth (people and funds). If we experience an overall declining, it means less money, less services, etc. We anticipate this will mean an expansion of giving opportunities (more advent-type giving). Parishes will need to get together and redistribute/share what types of help and services each can offer.

St. Hyacinth: In terms of the maps and expected growth, St. Florian shows the most growth, St. Louis the King with greatest loss. If a loss is projected in population, it goes to say there would also be a loss of parishioners. However, the parish does want to stress that even with the loss in the surrounding area, 98% of parishioners are from the suburbs and are dedicated and supportive of the parish. In terms of services, the parish participates in outreach programs in the neighborhood, supports the yearly Goodfellows collection, has a food pantry and a Giving Tree.

St. Florian (and group discussion): Parishes will need to get together to discuss what services are more needed in which particular area. For example, one may need a soup kitchen or food pantry; one may need more job reinforcement, etc. In the area of ethnic diversity challenges and changes, they need to help each other to support Polish-Catholic traditions and keep them alive. If this wasn't important, the parishioners would go elsewhere. They'd like to form an 'inter-parish' group to assist with this and keep individualities of parish, but offer no duplication of services.

Overall, fewer Catholics are coming in to the area. The Immigrants that do come in are not nearly as religious as their ancestors. People just don't practice their faith. They don't belong to parishes and have decreased communication between generations.

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?"

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?"

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)."

The group felt that they had answered all 6 questions with the discussion they had so they reconvened to discuss their answers as a whole.

GROUPS RECONVENE - DISCUSSION

"Polonia" parishes are facing similar challenges as the city group; there may not be a lot of foreclosures in the area, but they are facing a diminishing population. Property upkeep and maintenance help to reduce foreclosures. They have a large "melting pot" of ethnicities, and would like to keep traditions alive and form more parish groups and work collaboratively on outreach programs. They would like to collaborate with other parishes for senior programs, and ministry, and become more active in each other's social functions.

Alton pointed out that we still need to answer questions 4-6. People are asked to review the questions at home and have a formulated view when we come back together. We'll do wrap up of this section and look at the next area at our next meeting. Some information is proprietary; you won't get it until the night we start and it won't go out through email.

OLGC – St. Raymond: Noted that Assumption Grotto, OLGC & Q of H will have more people that live away from the parish. St. Raymond has Wednesday 'Faith Sharing'/Bible Study. At OLGC the nuns do blood pressure screenings. They have a food pantry, food outreach program, Osborn group, AA meetings on Tuesday. There's usually a fundraiser going on so young people have things to do.

Madonna: They have an aging parish impacted by deaths and job loss. Hope evangelization through their Neighborhood Festival and Bingo program will help grow parish family numbers. Have fellowship after Mass that works well. There's some growth near Madonna and they're asking how to engage the new neighbors; the challenge is how to get them to come to the parish. There are few grocery stores and restaurants in the area. They're looking for suggestions.

Blessed Sacrament: Challenged with an aging population, inside and outside of the parish in the neighborhood. The number of seniors is increasing (projected 38% by 2035) and they have no parish programs for seniors. Need to look internally as how to reach out to the neighborhood. There are additional programs that the group members did not know about. Feel as a cluster, they don't communicate as well as they can and need to communicate more effectively, interact with the neighborhood. Has a couple of local schools – Loving school, part of the Skillman Foundation. They were training tutors and would like to do that again. Need to find better ways to do what they're doing and tap into local seniors.

St. Gregory: Agrees with Blessed Sacrament - they're going to have more seniors, have not yet begun any programs for them yet and need to begin focusing on that. There are programs for seniors now held in the church that haven't been communicated with other parishes in the cluster. Need to work on more interaction with seniors.

Msgr. LeFevre asked us to look at what are we doing as a diocese for seniors. There's not a lot of quality senior housing in the area, so many have to leave the zip code for new, modern, safe facilities in their area. This is an institutional question. There's a lot of bad housing units we minister to. A new senior facility has been built near Madonna.

St. Benedict: Their senior population is going down. Feel they have to do more outreach; currently has an infant mortality group; have a gym, boys & girls club, etc. Need to get more involved with these groups.

Msgr. LeFevre said that we need to make use of the facilities we have and welcome the people in the groups into our worship. People don't have a good idea of the resources we offer during the week and we need to get that information out to the communities.

A representative noted that one thing is we all have the same problem; how do we get the neighbors to take part in our faith? What do we believe in? We need to dispel the old myth about worshipping statues. The Catholics don't have an "A-B-C brochure" or something we can hand to a prospective convert. We need to explain to those getting outreach what we believe in and have a follow up on why they need to take classes to be a Catholic, answer any questions about the faith, etc.

Q of H: They're gaining a lot of seniors and losing younger people and need to reach out more to block clubs and put more focus on the youth in the parish. Feel they can evangelize in their neighborhood and use the school as an opportunity for families; partner with Dove Academy.

St. Bart/St. Rita: Most of the projected population loss will be non-Catholic so there will be minimum impact on parish attendance. This could impact them by losing community participation in events such as their flea market, bingo and senior groups.

Q of A/St. Louis the King: In terms of the maps and expected growth – St. Florian shows most growth, and St. Lad's following. However, consensus among the group was there won't be much of a real shift, as people will want to stay close to where social services are provided.

better relationships with them and present opportunities to build a better relationship with them. Need to tap into area organizations send out job opportunities every week and better use the information they have beyond publishing it in the bulletin.

St. Gregory: A lot of job loss in their neighborhood, also a lot of seniors. Not that many parishioners are without jobs. They haven't been interactive with the community in the perimeter around the Church. People in that area are sensitive; you have to be careful what you say because they tend to be private and guarded. They provide soup lunches on Fridays. They'd like to become closer to the community. Suggested knocking on doors & getting connected with local residents. Noted that the inclement weather hasn't helped their efforts.

Msgr. LeFevre stated that we need to work on evangelization, especially in our charter schools. They're tenants, but can we access them and work with the students & parents. He also noted that seniors are great for the literacy programs. We can offer human resources to the schools and build relationships with them from there.

St. Benedict: In regards to employment, they have job growth in Highland Park. Their growth is projected at 5.8%. They've advocated jobs for residents and feel they need evangelization in Highland Park. Msgr LeFevre pointed out that the demographic information for Highland Park is on the M1 Rail website.

St. Bart/St. Rita: In general, job loss will have some effect on parents' decision to send children to St. Bart's school because of tuition rates and that in general, people can't afford the tuition. Feel job loss can affect the amount of donations to the parish because of. On average, 88 students are enrolled in St. Bart's school.

Q of H: Needs further information for job opportunities and would like to talk to business owners about sponsoring the children in the neighborhood. Find out who the kids in the neighborhood are and get to know them through the block club. Getting kids in the neighborhood jobs helps them by giving them money to spend and keeps them out of trouble. They get a good response for their parish activities and feel they can do more in the area of job growth.

St. Raymond - OLGC: Some members have lost their job which has resulted in less money to give to the parish. St. Vincent DePaul has contributed \$58,000 to assist them. 300 or more families from all over the city continue to use their food program, "Harvest Fest". They're going to point out to people where they've seen "help wanted" signs and be more aware of hiring signs.

Q of A-St. Louis the King: Job loss has affected the area with lowering income, decreasing number of parishioners; area has become an Ellis Island type of environment – skills but no jobs (or lower paying jobs). How will parishes address projected job loss/growth in future? By increasing charitable donations, food pantries, job fairs/workshops, special masses/prayers with help afterwards.

St. Hyacinth: Church seems to not be affected as no new businesses have been seen in a while. GM's "Poletown" plant is the biggest employer in the area. However, with 98% of parishioners living in the suburbs and with the current economic climate, weekly collections have been able to stay stable and consistent.

St. Florian: Church area also has seen no real growth, no real business growth. The attitude/point of direction for future is to look beyond our own neighborhoods. The parishes are getting older, and not finding anyone coming in unless they find a reason to come back.

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?"

from that. According to the statistics, they're 'middle of the road' in numbers. They feel strong housing keeps neighborhoods safe and that it's good for community participation in events.

Queen of Heaven: On all maps, their area is one of the lowest in the group. They have slightly decreasing housing numbers and are in one of the lowest populated areas. With their clustered parish, they are on the cusp of a demolition area for the City of Detroit. They feel their opportunities are newer, large brick homes, their proximity to the Van Dyke-Outer Drive corridor. Their school, Dove Academy, has over 420 students and is the biggest charter school in the Vicariate. They receive money from the Skillman Foundations. Have a senior living area near Connor Creek hospital.

St. Raymond – OLGC: Feel their parishes need to encourage block clubs and homeowner groups to address the problems in the area. Some parishioners lost their jobs. According to the maps, there is affordable housing in the area. There's also been an increase in crime in the area. They have a food program and St. Vincent DePaul society. They suggested that if you go into the suburbs and you see 'help-wanted' sign, to bring back to the parish so the members of your community can apply.

Queen of Apostles in collaboration with St. Louis the King: Within the Q of A boundaries we have seen more people renting than owning homes, some foreclosures, but also stable housing. Those that want to stay in the community have bought and developed roots, and are staying; the larger number of renters comes from the fact that the city is a cheap alternative/starting point for growth. People start out in Hamtramck (as immigrants from many nations) come to live within the parish boundaries, educate themselves and gain money, then move out to the suburbs. St. Louis the King has seen movement away from the neighborhood of the church, as well as a general dilapidation of housing but these people are non-parishioners. What does this mean for our communities? Housing can worsen if not stabilized, communities worsen, and parishes experience diminishing number of parishioners, less people in general within the city (more people moving out). The over-arching economy determines a lot that goes on in our parish. Currently we offer good services (fire/police), good government, and good selection of ethnic foods/bakeries.

Transfiguration-OLHC was shown to be facing greatest challenges (probably due to a higher amount of dilapidating housing conditions).

St. Hyacinth: The area around St. Hyacinth showed an increased attention to tearing down abandoned and burned out buildings, making it a plus for the surrounding neighborhood making it appear more attractive and safe. There is also a sign of change where the city is replacing sidewalks and curbs (making them handicapped accessible) and paving/re-paving streets. There has also been an increased number of Wayne State University students renting in the area.

St. Florian: The area is shrinking significantly, need to look outside parish boundaries (to draw more people in from suburbs) Polish immigrants are coming in, but stay quickly (stepping stone) and leave. Muslims are also coming in to the city to reside. Overall, shrinkage is seen with no projections for anything to come along.

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: Job loss in the area is not as impactful as there were not a lot of jobs to begin with. They offer a holiday 'Meals on Wheels' program; Thanksgiving & Christmas 'Adopt-a-Family' program; Food Pantry; Fr. Cunningham Choir; WTC choir outreach and do musical programs with other churches.

Blessed Sacrament: The job loss projection for the area is a reduction of -7% from 2010 – 2035 and they feel this number is correct. To combat projected job losses they need to find out specific opportunities from the organizations planning investments in the area and publish those opportunities to the area group, neighborhood organizations and block clubs. They're currently utilizing things happening here. There are currently 3 block clubs and the CDC that meet regularly at their facilities. They need to build

Alton noted that the reps don't need to get bogged down in the numbers; this is a resource, a projection of expectations in some cases. In the planning process we need an overview of what SEMCOG is doing. 2005 & 2010 is hard data, 2011 and up is projections. You have to look at the maps as how the information impacts your parish and its neighborhood. They cover the "Polonia" Group in one set and the "City" group in the other. Please note, these maps are not available to the general public as they are proprietary information.

He also requested that if the reps have time to go onto the next questions that they do. The groups should be able to answer all 6 questions in the TIF Phase II questionnaire by the end of the meeting. The "Polonia" parishes went to the upstairs to meet; the "City" group remained downstairs.

INDIVIDUAL/GROUP 1 & 2 DISCUSSION

The parishes met individually then as a group; the "City" and "Polonia" groups each met collectively. They answered the questions as follows:

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: Area shows a reduced housing trend and reduced youth involvement. They service residents outside their parish boundaries and will service whoever comes to them. Their visitor numbers have reduced. North of the Church there is an industrial area with no activity.

Blessed Sacrament: They're facing a large challenge in declining population, but feel the challenge is to build up the area for stabilization. The City of Detroit is planning to offer housing in the area to police & fire workers. The area is a target for the '15x15 Program' which is to bring 15,000 people back into the area by 2015. They'd like to piggyback their efforts to this program.

St. Gregory: The representative is new to the group. Most homes in the area around the parish are owned or rented and they don't have too many foreclosures. There are a lot of seniors in the area and they have programs & services that donate bags of food to senior citizens and the needy on a weekly basis. They feel they can do more for seniors in future. They noted they'll soon have more seniors than young people in the area. They need money; they have a gym that needs to be fixed so they can utilize it for young people & seniors for dancing, basketball, etc. Feel they need to work on having programs for seniors. They have an R.N. nurse that comes in every Sunday and takes seniors' blood pressure (in the Church & for people on the street outside the Church if they're interested).

Msgr. LeFevre noted that parish is in the Livernois corridor and that there's good housing stock in the area. They are part of the University District.

St. Benedict: They haven't noticed much of an effect because only 1% of their parishioners come from Highland Park. Their occupied housing numbers have gone down. They're hopeful because of the economic growth programs in Highland Park. They hope to be vibrant again, are hopeful about future and the productive environment around the parish.

Msgr. LeFevre stated that there is a huge investment corridor in Highland Park. The Archdiocese is looking at what SEMCOG is doing. The zip codes of their parishioners are not in Highland Park and they're servicing those who are not parishioners. We need to look at who we are as a community, not just a parish.

St. Bart/St. Rita: A good portion of the parish population (perhaps a majority) resides outside the geographic boundaries of the parish. The population data does not differentiate between Catholics & Non-Catholics, but they're aware that the surrounding area is non-Catholic and that it's tough to draw

The 3rd map indicates vacancy rates in colors ranging from light to dark blue. As noted above, the darker the color, the worse the condition of the area. The "Residential Parcel Survey" includes housing vacancy only for 1-4 unit housing (none of the maps indicate apartment complex statistics).

The 4th map shows "Changes by Block Group (2000-2008)". The dark blue areas show the least amount of population change/growth. Parishes are indicated by number to show the changes around them. The 5th map shows "Vacant Lots as Percentage of Residential Parcels" (areas in dark green have the most). These areas could be developed into parks.

The 6th map indicates "Population Density, by Census Block Group (2008); the areas with more than 15 people per acre are in dark blue.

The 7th map shows the 2013 projections for "Population Density and AOD Parishes". As in the map above, the dark blue areas show more than 15 people per acre.

The 8th map covers "Properties For Sale & Lease in the Central Region". There are more properties for lease than for sale as indicated by the purple stars on the map. The last two maps have stars and this is where the City of Detroit is doing new construction or rehabilitation. Most are on the outer edge of the City of Detroit and only you will know if there's new construction around your parish. The final pages are a breakdown of the information contained within. Alton noted around Kettering High School they're building new homes through a private foundation.

These maps are intended for the council members to look at from a global perspective while discussing the TIF planning questions and for them to take back to their parish councils for discussion. This information is only available to our group at this time and is going to other planning groups in the Archdiocese.

The next set of maps are black and white, have statistical information relating to the maps on the back of the page and are broken down by Group 1 (the "City" group) and Group 2 (the "Polonia" group).

Map 1: "Owner Occupied Housing" (homes only) snapshot map - the darker the color, the more the owner-occupied housing.

Map 2: "Renter Occupied Housing" not including apartments (same as above). The darker the color, the more housing is occupied by renters.

Map 3: "Foreclosure Rates" are indicated with bar charts; the higher the bar, the more foreclosures are in the parish's neighborhood.

Map 4: "Employment Trends" are the job opportunities within the communities. You need to ask "what does this mean to your parish?". If they're creating jobs in your neighborhood you have the opportunity for evangelization and you need to make sure people in the neighborhood surrounding your parish are getting the jobs. You have the opportunity to partner with those that are hiring and invite their people to a community service. When you can do this it helps your evangelization efforts!

Map 4: A "General Population Change" snapshot that shows changes in growth & loss with projections to 2035. The Vicariate total projected change is just over -12% (negative 12%).

Map 5: "Age 65 and Over Population" shows the statistics from 2005, 2010 and projections for 2035 (as does the map above) and shows an increase of 49% of seniors in the areas surrounding the Genesis Vicariate parishes.

Map 6: "School Age Population (5-17 Years)" shows a decrease of 30% in school aged children around the parishes. Once again, what does this mean to our parishes, especially those with schools?

You can see by this information that it directly affects individuals & parishes. For example, when you look at the population change - when a store closes and they always shoveled the snow, you and your parish may now need to use your own resources to do this. You need to consider how the changes in the numbers for the areas around your parish are going to impact you in the years to come.



Genesis Vicariate Pastoral Council

TO SHARE CHRIST IN AND THROUGH THE URBAN CHURCH

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MARCH 2011 MEETING MINUTES

Genesis Vicariate Pastoral Council
"Together In Faith" Phase II Meeting
6:30 p.m. ~ March 14, 2011
Blessed Sacrament Cathedral

AGENDA:

1. **Opening Prayer**
2. **Overview of The TIF Discussion Process**
3. **Demographic Information Maps**
4. **Individual/Group 1 & 2 Discussion**
5. **Groups Reconvene – Discussion**
6. **Wrap-up**

OPENING PRAYER

At 6:32 pm, the meeting opened with a prayer.

OVERVIEW OF THE TIF DISCUSSION PROCESS

Alton James, Archdiocese representative, made sure everyone had a copy of the data maps, agenda and external questions. Parish reps were asked to sit with their other parish members, reflect on the "Together In Faith" (herein TIF) planning questions for 5 minutes individually then have a parish discussion about the questions. Each parish was required to take legible notes to give to the recorders at the end of the meeting for inclusion in the Minutes.

Minutes, handouts and information from the meeting will be distributed to the VPC members within 7 days of the meeting. Once the parishes have discussed the TIF planning questions, they will then break into a larger group to discuss their answers to the questions. After that, they will reconvene into one group for the synopsis of the parishes' discussions.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION MAPS

Data Driven Detroit is an outside firm that provides the City of Detroit with their statistical information. The information is not available for Hamtramck and Highland Park. Because they're in the city, they're not included separately in the plan. The maps & demographics are anecdotal information and are intended for review before discussing the planning questions.

The first map, "Overlapping Target Areas & AOD Parishes" is an overview of the target areas that private development corporations are going to develop or invest in the city. Our parishes are located at the numbered locations within the City map. The NSP1 Target Area is targeted for demolition. At the Mayor's State of the City address, he noted he wants to level 10,000 homes. The "Detroit Neighborhood Initiative" is indicated in green. This is where the city will be building homes and demolishing dilapidated & vacant ones. The "Skillman Foundation" area shows "good neighborhoods" and programs where they are investing in the City (see map "Overlapping Target Areas").

The 2nd map, "Average Housing Condition by Census Block Group & AOD Parishes" is brown, tan & yellow in coloring and tells where the poorest housing is located. The darker the color of the area, the weakest average condition is indicated.