

ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL (APC) EVALUATION
September 2011

Genesis Vicariate - Planning Group 1
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Grotto)
Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament
Church of the Madonna
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Our Lady Queen of Heaven
St. Bartholomew – St. Rita
St. Benedict
St. Gregory the Great
St. Raymond

1. Based on the reflections, dialogue, and parish activities now and proposed for the future, what are the most important aspects of the Church's presence within the planning group, and in the vicariate? In the region? What are the most exciting things? How can these activities continue and grow?

Planning Group Recommendation

- a. Actively engage the community; evangelization; weekly food distribution programs; some young adult programs; some homebound ministry programs; St. Vincent De Paul programs.

Supporting Data:

Parish submitted information from the parish pastoral planning reflection questions.
Evangelization; we have outreach programs in all the parishes

- b. Meeting the sacramental, spiritual, and physical needs of all. To uphold the dignity of the vulnerable and embrace our multi-ethnicity

Supporting Data:

We have outreach programs in all the parishes.

- c. Have the AOD Office of Catechists and Black Catholic Ministry develop a diversified youth and young adult program.

Supporting Data:

Lack of programs for youth, young adults and based on the demographic data.

APC Response

- a. **How are you actively engaging the community? It seems that the listed activities could be offered through an outreach center. How can these activities grow? Please define the young adult programs and where they are currently offered. Please define the homebound ministry programs and where they are currently offered. Which parishes have outreach programs and what activities do the programs conduct? Who is involved? What are the target audiences for each program? How do these activities support the mission of the AOD? Who is involved in the activities? How are the activities funded and why are the activities important? How will you expand and continue the activities?**
- b. **How are the physical needs being met? How are you meeting the needs of your current parishioners? What activities are you doing to ensure this happens? See questions from Recommendation One; this comment has no substance to it.**

- c. **What have the parishes done to make this happen? Have you looked for programs? Seems there are not enough youth per parish to sustain individual programs. How will any program be implemented in the parishes, in the vicariate, and in the region? Who will be involved and how will funding be handled?**
2. What are some best practices that should be duplicated in other parts of the vicariate, region or archdiocese that are not occurring now? What can other parishes and vicariates learn from this planning group?

Planning Group Recommendation

- a. Develop a brother/sister relationship with suburban parishes with the goal of partnering on projects and sharing of resources in support of each parish's mission.

Supporting Data:

- Demographics and parish-submitted data.
- b. Sharing of youth ministry, Vacation Bible School and evangelization to increase attendance and volunteers.

Supporting Data:

- Parish-submitted data.
- c. Increase youth participation at Mass by implementing "Youth Sunday" on a regular basis (ushers, altar servers, lectors, choir, etc.).

APC Response

- a. **This is not a "best practice", but rather a goal. Should we continue to look to outsiders (the suburbs) to solve our issues? This partnership should involve the parishes in your vicariate. What will each parish bring to a partnership (with a suburban parish or within your vicariate? How do demographics support a partnership with the suburbs?**
 - b. **This is also not a "best practice", but rather a goal. If this is currently happening, with whom are the programs and activities being shared? Please explain the submitted data**
 - c. **This is also not a "best practice", but rather a goal. How will this help parishes? Who will organize this activity and will it cross parish boundaries?**
3. Review the final recommendations from the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC). How will the parishes improve on what they are already doing, in response to the APC plans, or how will these plans be implemented in the future? How are these plans supported by the data and the planning process to date? What resources will be needed, including people, time, talent and treasure?

Planning Group Recommendation

- a. Improve communication between all parishes such as aligning our parish bulletins, collaborative meetings, continued planning meetings.
- b. Teach all aspects of Stewardship; have each parish create a stewardship committee.
- c. Establish a parish and vicariate-level evangelization committee.
- d. Implement and evaluate strategies.

- e. Develop programs such as quarterly activities for youth at the vicariate level. Form a committee with youth representatives from each parish to formulate the needs and activities for youth under 18.
- f. Identify and support parishioners as parish lay-leaders to take advantage of training such as at Sacred Heart Seminary.

Supporting Data:

- Resource needed is parish leadership, participation in planning committees.

APC Response

Suggest that wording from the APC Leadership Committee be reviewed. How will the parishes implement and support the APC Recommendations? Who will be involved? How will activities be funded?

- a. **How will this be implemented? Who will participate? Collaborative meeting on what?**
 - b. **Do you mean a finance council? It must be a functioning council.**
 - c. **What will this committee do? Who will participate? How will it be funded?**
 - d. **What strategies?**
 - e. **What will happen with this information? Who will do this?**
 - f. **Who will identify the leaders? What kind of support will be offered and who will offer it? In what areas will the leadership development focus? Much more elaboration is needed here.**
4. What recommendations can be made about future clusters, mergers, or different parish configurations? Which ones and when? How would these increase or grow the activities identified through the initial reflection process?

Planning Group Recommendation

- a. No future clusters/mergers of any parish in the group.
- b. Parishes must have a mandatory contingency plan for clustering or merging. Whoever is not currently clustered or merged must have a contingency plan to cluster or merge.
- c. Mandatory plan to merge parishes in “North” and “South” groups.
- d. Merge and sell large properties then build a new, energy-efficient parish.

APC Response

- a. **Church of the Madonna, St. Benedict, and St. Gregory the Great should consider merging with Blessed Sacrament Cathedral due to outstanding debt, declining membership and generally declining sacramental statistics. St. Bartholomew should consider clustering with another parish due to a 50% decline in membership. Please review data for each parish again and make realistic recommendations regarding future clusters, mergers and closures.**
- b. **This contradicts Recommendation One above. What are the plans for the parish in this planning group? What are your plans considering the age of priests and the shortage of priests? What is the timeline for these plans?**
- c. **This contradicts Recommendation One above. Who will develop this plan? What is the timeline for the plan and mergers?**
- d. **More elaboration is needed here. This could be part of Recommendation Three above.**

5. Could parishes within the planning group combine financial and administrative activities to result in a merged parish with possibly one or more worship sites? Which ones? How would this increase the activities identified through the initial reflection process?

Planning Group Recommendation

- a. “North” Group: Assumption Grotto, St. Raymond/OLGC, St. Bart–St. Rita, Queen of Heaven to coordinate Mass schedules, administration and priests. There are 5 priests, 2 others could be shared. “South” Group already in this model (all other parishes in Group 1).

Supporting Data:

- (Should Supporting Data be: “South” Group already in this model?)

APC Response

- a. **How will this increase or enhance activities for each parish? Who will develop the plan? How will this affect parish finances? Is this a precursor to clustering or merging? Please explain the "5 priest" comment.**
6. Could a parish or worship site in its current form close and solely operate as an outreach center or to serve some other ministerial activity? How would that increase the activities identified through the initial reflection process?

Planning Group Recommendation

- a. St. Gregory, St. Benedict or St. Bart-St. Rita to be used for “youth world”, homeless outreach center, food pantry, Catholic senior center, etc. Church would still be kept going, but grants would be needed for financial support.

Supporting Data:

- Demographic information

APC Response

- a. **What is "Youth World"? Where would grants come from? Who would be responsible for getting the grants? Is this a recommendation that the above mentioned parishes close or merge? How would the suggested activities be funded? How does this support the AOD mission?**
7. What resources will be needed, including people, time, talent, and treasure? If there are no Catholic schools within the planning group, how will the parishes ensure that Catholic school education is available to students within their parishes/vicariates/regions? How will the parishes support Catholic school education if a new Catholic school model is developed for current and future Catholic families?

Planning Group Recommendation

- a. Regional financial support by A) Charter income or tax B) Percentage of income or C) In-parish tuition rates for all. St. Clement will continue with the present program.
- b. Vicariate financial support.
- c. Establish a high school on the east side of Detroit.

APC Response

- a. **Would this be a regional school? What level of school? Please explain “tax” and “percentage of income”. Given that this is the only elementary school in the vicariate and on the eastside, has there been consideration given to work with the Hamramck parishes to make this school more attractive to the Polish community? Offering Polish Language classes?**
 - b. **More information is needed here. Where would the vicariate get funds? Is this on a percentage basis by parish? How would parishes support this effort?**
 - c. **What would be the role of the parishes and the vicariate?**
8. Does the condition of the current buildings and facilities meet the needs and projected needs of each of the parishes in your planning group? Could a parish better serve its population and mission in a different location and where?

Planning Group Recommendation

- a. St. Bart School may need a new roof in the next 3 years.
- b. All parishes have an engineering audit performed on all of the parish buildings if they haven't had one in the last 2 years.
- c. All parishes have an energy audit performed.

APC Response

- a. **What data supports this? How will this be funded?**
 - b. **What is the purpose of the audit? What happens with the audit results?**
 - c. **What is the purpose of the audit? What happens with the audit results?**
9. How does the data, maps and statistics provided support these recommendations?

Planning Group Recommendation

- a. The data, maps and statistics provide the past history and future needs consistent with the proposed neighborhood restructuring in the City of Detroit and points to and the reality of what is happening to the parishes in the Genesis vicariate. It is not just a Catholic action plan.

APC Response

- a. (No response noted)