

Parish Transformation Meeting #4 – October 3, 2013, Queen of Angels Parish

In Attendance:

Msgr. Jim Kaczorowski, Pastor	Pat Drennan	Matt Persohn (SC)
Deacon Bill Smyser, Faciliator	Ed Duffy	John Peters
Connie Beckman	Albert Ferolie	Patty Peterson
Michael Beckman	Jim Hohner	Jack Recinto
Bill Brennan	Rachel Hohner (SC)	Joann Salas
Tom Budziszewski	Cathy Irvine	Guadalupe Salazar
Anne Butzen	Julia Kelly	Erin Shea
Fred Butzen	Marie Koehazi	Veronica Siegle
Chris Callahan (SC)	Tad Kolke	John Smith
Joe Cook	Brian Lunt	Dennis Temple
Mary Corrado	Tom McCarthy	Liz Wannemacher
Tom Donnelly (SC)	Deacon Ben Nieves	(SC) = Steering Committee

Not Present: Karen Brady, Lisa Krappman, Beth Kraszewski, Victor Martinez, Richard Morton, Loretta Namovic, Ladime Ramirez, Guillermo Rizzo, Lindida Rizzo, Maira Urizar.

Refreshments & informal conversation at discussion tables. Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Welcome, Prayer & Introductory Remarks Deacon Bill Smyser, Rachel Hohner & Team

- Opening hymn: “Pan de Vida” – verse 1 in English, verse 2 in Spanish
- Review and feedback from previous meeting
 - Began Mission Narrative by seeing what attributes it must have
 - Named our “pearls of great price” (Community, Liturgy, Role Models)
- Think of these as we now look at the Mission Narrative through different lenses, including the “pearls”

Developing Vision Statements Deacon Bill and Team

See lenses on p. 18 in the *Mission Workbook*

Can think about (see) the parish mission through different “lenses” such as the charism of our patron saint, demographics, “pearls of great price,” Scripture, composition, challenges, etc. Use each lens for a starting point to be inspired toward a vision for what our parish could become

EXAMPLES:

<i>Lens</i>	<i>Basis/Source of Inspiration</i>	<i>Vision</i>
<i>Pearls of Great Price</i>	<i>Strong music ministry</i>	<i>Become a witness to our faith through music, by providing beautiful celebrations of the Mass, offering frequent prayerful reflections with music, and by evangelizing the community through frequent performances of sacred pieces</i>
<i>Parish composition</i>	<i>Many lawyers in the parish</i>	<i>Become beacons of justice by standing up for the marginalized, providing legal assistance for the poor, and educating parishioners about the key justice issues of our day.</i>

Each table takes on 1 of 5 lenses – patron saint; demographics/composition of the parish, “pearls of great price,” Biblical or Scriptural story, spiritual challenge of the parish

- List the inspiration and construct the vision
- Select someone from the group to share

- Will collect each group's notes for master document

Tables discuss for 15 minutes, then report their work to the group.

Lens	Basis/Source of Inspiration	Vision
Patron saint	Mary, Queen of Angels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspiring unconditional love, tenderness as gift for others • saying “yes” to God • strength in life, remaining faithful, staying the course 	Become a people of God in the way we give to one another in tender service, hearing the will of God and staying focused on faith, even on the worst days. Submit to God’s will by saying “yes” to God and receiving grace from God that gives strength.
<i>Feedback:</i>	<i>Emphasis on unconditional love, being the greatest gift to others, empowerment through grace, remaining faithful; experience of tenderness.</i>	
Demographic challenges	Bridging parish groups in 3 areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new/younger with current/established • un- and under-employed with financially stable • Hispanic with Anglo 	Become a beacon for inclusion with more initial welcoming, reaching out as a Christian community to all demographic segments, not just your own. More emphasis on efforts for communication and evangelization, embracing the diversity of our parish family.
<i>Feedback:</i>	<i>Keys are evangelization, reaching out, inclusion, turning toward or embracing the demographic challenge as Mary embraced her cousin Elizabeth; will appreciate Mary even more if the words we say have meaning behind them; patron saints encourage us to carry on their charism, ask “What would Mary do?”, being an example of how to reach out and be tender</i>	
Pearl of Great Price	Role Models <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitality • Engagement • Attentiveness 	Become a witness to our faith, leading by the example of engaged parishioners who demonstrate service, inclusion, and stewardship, who invite and engage to bring others to live in the image of Christ.
<i>Feedback:</i>	<i>Teach in school that Mary is the role model we can all follow, emulate her; becoming the image of Christ in the world.</i>	
Scripture	John 2:1-11, Wedding at Cana <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary as an intercessor (directing others to Christ) • Image of a feast (Eucharist) • Marriage (ceremony) 	Become a parish that is welcoming to guests, directing others to Jesus and engaging in the discipline of joy; invite everyone to the feast and show them that the wine is good, that something happens here.
<i>Feedback:</i>	<i>Being joyful in faith attracts others; don’t always know when it’s the right time (being pushed by a mother); tell them to trust in God and leave it in his hands; powerful message to articulate in all that we do.</i>	
Spiritual Challenges	To love perfectly as Jesus loved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We’re all in this together, let’s help each other • Not forgetting that we are united in the Eucharist • Pastor is overworked and parish should help 	Become one family united in the perfect love of Jesus Christ, coming together to love as Jesus loved through the Eucharist applied to our everyday lives, moving past the daily challenges and languages which may divide us; giving volunteer service, praying for the world and renewing parish ministries of cooperation such as the Parish Council and Nicodemus Ministry.
<i>Feedback:</i>	<i>Christian responsibility to help; actions taken based in perfect love, receiving grace/strength in the Mass to take with you into the world.</i>	

Anything unusual in the example vision statements?

- Connection to patron saint – vision of unconditional love, gift to others, remaining faithful
- All begin with “become a...” – not “continue to be” or “we are already”
 - Process of becoming, moving toward improvements – many of these things we are already partly doing but can always do better
 - Don’t underestimate current efforts, these are things we are thinking about that spark discussion
 - Moving toward goals of welcoming and inclusion that we are continually working on

Other lenses?

Five minute break for consideration.

Lens	Basis/Source of Inspiration	Vision
Catechesis	Learning more about the love of Jesus Christ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement in survey that programs are good, but not sure about effects • Need better communication of catechetical mission, witnessing from participants • 4 components of Instruction, Integration/Formation, Parent Involvement, Church Connection/Eucharist • Informed by direct knowledge of programs 	Become a community that points toward Jesus through catechesis in the sacraments and Scripture that will influence faith and raise awareness so that all may deepen their personal relationship with Christ.

Sharing Survey Highlights

Deacon Bill and Team

Interesting areas to look at: stewardship, youth & adult catechesis, young adults, spiritual life

Young Adults

- Question 3: My parish makes an intentional effort to reach out to YAs in their 20s and 30s.
 - 30% disagreed and 22% didn’t know
 - Parish is weak on young adults in their 20’s and 30’s

Religious Formation for Youth

- Question 11: Our youth Religious Education program(s) provide effective instruction in our Catholic faith.
 - Few disagreed but 61% said they didn’t know!
- Possible explanations:
 - Survey-takers didn’t have kids in Religious Ed, need direct experience of programs to know the effectiveness and value
 - Confused by term “youth” – just high school (no program) or all children?
 - Need better communication of effects of program, or is that not needed? – could put info in bulletin but not everyone reads it; how essential is it for all of parish to know?

Religious Formation for Adults

- Question 7: I would take advantage of faith sharing opportunities in my parish.
 - 66% agreed
- Question 27: I would like help from my parish to deepen my personal rel. with Christ.
 - 76% agreed
 - points toward a hunger for opportunities of faith formation and engagement
- See also Questions 9, 10, and 12

Stewardship

- Question 33: My parish regularly invites me to offer my time, talent, and treasure.
 - 78% agreed

Spiritual Life

- Question 26: I have a personal relationship with Christ.
 - Almost 92% agreed, with 35% of those agreeing strongly

Evangelization

- What it is and is not
 - Often thought of as a Protestant thing, street-corner preaching
 - From Greek root word, refers to spreading the Gospel
 - Not the words, but how you live your life that catches people’s attention
 - The other side of evangelization is going out to do mission work
- The New Evangelization – reaching out to those already baptized
 - Need to live & share faith with those who are hungry for it or have turned away from it
 - Keys to mission are living the Gospel by practicing love of God and neighbor (The Greatest Commandment), sharing the news of forgiveness through the mercy of God

Catechesis

- What it is
 - Teachings from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
 - Deeper understanding of the faith, “faith seeking understanding”
 - Echoing faith
- Good catechesis recognizes that everyone has a story to tell and different ways of sharing
 - Gather in groups, retreats, social media
 - Be more creative, use other means to reach out and catechize

Prayer & Worship (Prayer Life)

What are our strengths in each of these building blocks? Where do we need to improve?

Discussion at tables, then reporting back to the whole team.

Building Block	Strengths	Areas to Improve
Evangelization	Liturgy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone works together • Spiritual, well done • Homilies good 	More attendance – fill the pews! Connect new parishioners at Mass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome before Mass, intro to those sitting around you, recognize new parishioners or young people by inviting them to stand • Think outside the box! • Recognize newcomers so others can talk to them after Mass Honor birthdays and other events (e.g. marathon), give blessings after Mass – better channel for notifying?
Evangelization	Ministries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPRED • Respect Life Committee • School 	Outreach to youth and young adults
Catechesis	School and Religious Ed provide catechesis for ages 3-13, integrated into classes	Age gap from 14-30ish (or marriage), more needs to be done to address those groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SVDP Youth Group and Theology on Tap are good but not enough • Can be like herding cats, but should still try
Catechesis	Existing Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPRED • RCIA 	Real adult education with greater participation for Young Adults, use technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer childcare during events • Communication via online apps and videos • Be flexible with programming to accommodate busy schedules

Building Block	Strengths	Areas to Improve
Prayer & Worship (Prayer Life)	Liturgies and homilies Corpus Christi Procession <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unity • Evangelization • Tradition 	Communion under both species (Body and Blood) at weekend & weekday Mass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More people would receive Precious Blood if saw others doing it regularly • Gluten-free hosts – already available but not communicated well enough Access to the church for private prayer

Closing Prayer

Deacon Bill and Team

- Servant of God Rose Hawthorne (Mother Mary Alphonsa), daughter of Nathaniel Hawthorne and founder of a branch of the Dominican Sisters
- Worked with poor patients with incurable cancer
- Sign of God’s grace in her work, trusted in where God would take her
- **Prayer:** *Lord God, in your special love for the sick, the poor and the lonely, you raised up Rose Hawthorne (Mother Mary Alphonsa) to be the servant of those afflicted with incurable cancer with no one to care for them. In serving the outcast and the abandoned, she strove to see in them the face of your Son. In her eyes, those in need were always “Christ’s Poor.” Grant that her example of selfless charity and her courage in the face of great obstacles will inspire us to be generous in our service of neighbor. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

*Notes prepared by Rachel Hohner, Communications Leader & Steering Committee Member
10/10/2013*