

Parish Transformation Meeting #5 – October 10, 2013, Queen of Angels Parish

In Attendance:

Msgr. Jim Kaczorowski, Pastor	Albert Ferolie	Matt Persohn (SC)
Deacon Bill Smyser, Faciliator	Jim Hohner	Patty Peterson
Connie Beckman	Rachel Hohner (SC)	Jack Recinto
Michael Beckman	Julia Kelly	Guillermo Rizzo
Anne Butzen	Marie Koehazi	Joann Salas
Fred Butzen	Tad Kolke	Guadalupe Salazar
Chris Callahan (SC)	Beth Kraszewski	Erin Shea
Joe Cook	Victor Martinez	Veronica Siegle
Mary Corrado	Loretta Namovic	John Smith
Tom Donnelly (SC)	Deacon Ben Nieves	Liz Wannemacher

Not Present: Bill Brennan, Tom Budziszewski, Pat Drennan, Ed Duffy, Cathy Irvine, Lisa Krappman, Brian Lunt, Tom McCarthy, Richard Morton, John Peters, Ladime Ramirez, Dennis Temple, Maira Urizar. (SC) = Steering Committee

Refreshments & informal conversation at discussion tables. Meeting called to order at 7:08 p.m.

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

- Opening hymn: “Lord, When You Came to the Seashore / Pescador de Hombres” – verse 3 in English, verse 4 in Spanish
- Thank you for choosing Parish Transformation over the Bears game
- Review from previous meeting
 - Seeing a vision for parish life through different lenses: Scripture, demographics, community, etc.
 - Began 7 building blocks – will form the backbone of the Parish Transformation documents to be written
- Lenses document handout
 - Composited from comments and feedback at previous meetings
 - Source document for inspiration
 - Captured accurately? (*Nods and affirmations from the team.*)
- Must now finish final four building blocks

Building Blocks for Mission Deacon Bill Smyser & Team

Communion, Missionary Spirit, Call to Holiness & Spiritual Stewardship each assigned to tables

- Take 5 minutes to review pages in *Mission Workbook* and 20 minutes to discuss at the table, then report back to whole group
- For each building block, identify strengths and areas for improvement

Purpose as part of later stages of Parish Transformation process

- Will prepare similar document for building blocks as was done for lenses, to be distributed at next meeting
- Team to vote on which 3-4 building blocks to act on through implementation
- Will use to build specific goals during later meetings when team is broken into groups to develop action plans for Mission, Finances and School
- By final Transformation meeting, will have a draft Parish Transformation document to present to group for review and to Pastor and Steering Committee for final edits before publishing to the parish and presenting to the Vicar
- Published to parish via parish bulletin, website, speaking about it at Masses

Independent reading for 5 minutes. Table group discussion for 30 minutes. Break for 5 minutes.

Not getting into the discussion questions in order to get right to the heart

- Share 3 strengths and 3 areas for improvement for each building block

Reporting from groups, as summarized in the table below.

BUILDING BLOCK	STRENGTHS	AREAS TO IMPROVE
<p>Missionary Spirit</p> <p><i>Acting out the Gospel day by day with sincerity and truth in action</i></p>	<p>Existing formation and service opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete, spiritual • Strong with external outreach on missionary-minded projects 	<p>Must strengthen internal missionary activity and fraternal charity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing rudeness in the parking lot, gossip in the community – the opposite of missionary spirit • Conversion through catechesis, change mindset to change the behavior Encourage sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) • Live by “They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love” • Encouraging discipline and accountability, not policing or judging – individual reactions to behavior will affect the necessary change
<p>Spiritual Stewardship</p> <p><i>Cultivating time and treasure</i></p> <p><i>Being called to share what we have</i></p>	<p>Many gifts, surrounded by talent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So many people with so many gifts • Surrounded by examples every day <p>Financial stability / little debt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less stress of figuring out how to make ends meet, staying afloat <p>Circular / easy to get involved with other talent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively involved → more satisfied → meet more people → get them involved • Pool of swimming fish, easy to get involved 	<p>Go further to reach those less involved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the ratio of the 80/20 rule (80% give 20%, 20% give 80%) • Luke 12:48, “Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.” • Giving different types of treasure/time <p>Reframe outlook – not only for parish, for furthering the kingdom of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving is not just to Queen of Angels but to God’s kingdom • Not optional – must reform own attitude for the seed to be more fruitful • Investment in relationship with Sharing parish (Maternity BVM), seeing the face of Christ in the poor (St. Vincent de Paul) • Giving out of own need, being selfless and living the Greatest Commandment <p>Making people more aware of their blessings – building on being grateful for what we have, carry that gratitude into rest of life</p> <p>Cultivate stewardship – gardeners of blessings, not purchasers of spirituality</p>

BUILDING BLOCK	STRENGTHS	AREAS TO IMPROVE
<p>Call to Holiness</p> <p><i>Doing the will of God through how we live our lives</i></p> <p><i>Not being like the Pharisees, who like a bell make a big noise but have nothing inside</i></p> <p><i>Wholeness – nothing can be excluded</i></p>	<p>Spiritual champions/role models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspiring, are a call to action <p>Parish ministries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Getting together to grow in holiness 	<p>Discernment – more talking about spiritual lives with one another</p> <p>Living the Works of Mercy – be a people of action, serve via various groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporal Works of Mercy: meeting basic human needs, feeding, clothing, sheltering Spiritual Works of Mercy: giving counsel, advice, comfort Reach out in human response to marginalized, refugees and the undocumented, won't just ask for help Provide more counseling for people in transition (Old St. Pat's Transitions), guide through stressful times Christian solidarity with the suffering, vulnerability in helping others <p>Raising awareness of our ministries how they call us to lead holy lives</p>
<p>Communion</p> <p><i>Loving one another by sharing burdens and joys and leading each other to Christ</i></p>	<p>Inclusiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communion recognized not in isolation, but in talking to each other Seeing every encounter as an opportunity to encourage or discourage Christ (GK Chesterton) <p>Kids of the parish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kind, build community in how they relate to each other and adults Strong spiritual formation for First Communion and Confirmation 	<p>Reaching out to 2/3 of parents not actively involved in parish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Still bringing children for baptism and having the kids receive the sacraments at CCD and school, but families not at Mass or in ministries Chance to meet and talk with them, invite into the communion of the parish <p>Youth ministry and young adult ministry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Census data says we are becoming a younger parish with more singles <p>Support/outreach to families with lost/deceased/sick children – can partner with Catholic Charities, revive Elizabeth Ministry</p>

For the Next Meeting

Deacon Bill

- Will put all the building blocks together as a similar document so they can be voted on
- Getting to know each other and seeing the process of transformation, walking away pleasantly surprised
- Where else can we be so free to talk about holiness, having a missionary spirit, etc.?
- No reading in the Mission Workbook to do
- Will talk about which groups we will be in for developing action plans and lay out the final 6 weeks of the process

Closing Prayer

Deacon Bill and Team

- Sr. Thea Bowman, Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration
- Died from cancer in 1990

- When asked if she was afraid to die, replied that she was terrified but gave it to the Lord and felt freedom
- Shows what Parish Transformation is about – taking anxiety and pain over the future, and giving it to God
- Freedom we experience when we let God be God, giving it all into God’s hands
- Inspiration to us all
- **Prayer:** *“Olde Folks Child,” from your elders you learned values, survival skills and how to face pain, life and death. You turned life’s experiences into teaching moments, refusing to be overwhelmed by problems you encountered. Thea, you prayed, sang, danced and preached your way into places where few people of color dared to go. You saw beauty in the magnificent mosaics of the various cultures and had the gift of bringing others to a profound sense of their own dignity. Thea, “olde folks child”, pray for us before almighty God for the graces we need to hand on your legacy, knowing that the only way we can build the kingdom of God is by working together to build faith and strengthen community. Amen.*

Adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

*Notes prepared by Rachel Hohner, Communications Leader & Steering Committee Member
10/16/2013*