

Parish Transformation Meeting #7 – October 24, 2013, Queen of Angels Parish

In Attendance:

Fr. Ron Kalas, Vicar for Vicariate II	Jim Hohner	Patty Peterson
Deacon Bill Smyser, Faciliator	Rachel Hohner (SC)	Ladime Ramirez
Connie Beckman	Julia Kelly	Guillermo Rizzo
Bill Brennan	Marie Koehazi	Joann Salas
Tom Budziszewski	Brian Lunt	Guadalupe Salazar
Anne Butzen	Victor Martinez	Veronica Siegle
Fred Butzen	Tom McCarthy	John Smith
Joe Cook	Loretta Namovic	Liz Wannemacher
Tom Donnelly (SC)	Deacon Ben Nieves	
Albert Ferolie	Matt Persohn (SC)	(SC) = Steering Committee

Not Present: Msgr. Jim Kaczorowski, Michael Beckman, Chris Callahan (SC), Mary Corrado, Pat Drennan, Ed Duffy, Cathy Irvine, Tad Kolke, Lisa Krappman, Beth Kraszewski, Richard Morton, John Peters, Jack Recinto, Erin Shea, Dennis Temple, Maira Urizar.

Refreshments & informal conversation at discussion tables. Meeting called to order at 7:11 p.m.

Welcome, Prayer & Introductory Remarks Deacon Bill Smyser, Tom Donnelly & Team

Reflection on Meaning of Opening Prayer

- In thinking about Mary as our patron, wanted to bring in prayers of the Rosary
- The Lord's Prayer is one of the unifying prayers of the Church
- Recommended as one of the two prayers all Catholics should know in Latin, our universal language of prayer – the other is the Creed, which is much more challenging!
- **Prayer:** Lord's Prayer (Our Father) chanted in Latin: *Pater Noster, qui es in caelis, sanctificetur nomen tuum. Adveniat regnum tuum. Fiat voluntas tua, sicut in caelo et in terra. Panem nostrum quotidianum da nobis hodie, et dimitte nobis debita nostra sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris. Et ne nos inducas in tentationem, sed libera nos a malo. Amen.*

Review of previous work for Parish Transformation

- Identified our hopes and concerns, "pearls of great price" – got comfortable working in small groups
- Looked at various lenses for transformation – demographics, composition, patron, pearls, challenges
- Worked on building blocks, picked which to work with further for the next steps – Evangelization, Missionary Spirit, Spiritual Stewardship, Communion, Catechesis

Can only work with up to 4 building blocks, but could incorporate some into others – suggestions?

- **Catechesis** in with **Evangelization**
- **Communion** in with **Spiritual Stewardship**

Vocal assent to both suggestions.

Committee Selection

Deacon Bill Smyser & Team

Split into three committees / working groups – Mission, Finances, School

- Mission further split into three subgroups – 2 on building blocks, 1 for Mission Narrative
 - Must lump **Missionary Spirit** into **Evangelization and Catechesis** subgroup

Show of hands to divide into Mission, Finances and School groups (committees).

Request for smaller sets of volunteers from Mission group to work on Mission Narrative and the two building block clusters (Missionary Spirit, Evangelization and Catechesis; Communion and Spiritual Stewardship).

Working Group	(Subgroup)	Team Members
Mission	Missionary Spirit, Evangelization, Catechesis	Tom Donnelly, Albert Ferolie, Guillermo Rizzo, John Smith, Marie Koehazi
	Communion, Spiritual Stewardship	Joann Salas, Joe Cook, Ben Nieves, Guadalupe Salazar, Victor Martinez
	Mission Narrative	Loretta Namovic, Rachel Hohner, Connie Beckman
Finances		<i>Chris Callahan</i> , Bill Brennan, Fred Butzen, Veronica Siegle, Jim Hohner, Anne Butzen, Ladime Ramirez, <i>Jack Recinto</i>
School		Matt Persohn, Brian Lunt, Patty Peterson, Tom Budziszewski, Tom McCarthy, Julia Kelly, Liz Wannemacher, <i>Cathy Irvine, Tad Kolke</i>

Not yet placed in a working group due to absence: Michael Beckman, Mary Corrado, Pat Drennan, Ed Duffy, Lisa Krappman, Beth Kraszewski, Richard Morton, John Peters, Erin Shea, Dennis Temple, Maira Urizar

Instructions for Brainstorming Objectives and Goals **Deacon Bill Smyser**

- Brainstorm to make a “wish list” of possible outcomes related to building blocks and committee area of responsibility
- Keep in mind the rest of the process to whittle down this wish list to actionable goals

Example: Building block of Catechesis

- Objective: To enhance formational offerings
- Goals (how to get there): New teen program; catechetical program using social media
- Timeframe: How long will it take to make it happen?
- Ownership: Who from the team will take responsibility to coordinate efforts? Who else to bring in to help make it happen?
- Measurable Result: Quantify the goal, use an actual target number, be specific

Decide if have the time, talent and resources to do what we want as part of this action plan

- If not, don’t set that big of a goal!
- See what we can realistically do, even if played out over a longer period – e.g., add 10 the first time, 10 more the next time, then 5 more, etc.

Example: Building block of Communion

- Objective: Foster greater unity
- Goal: enhance multicultural offerings and Masses
- [Non-]Measurable result: “greater visible sense” – example of what not to do; not a good goal to use, can’t be measured! Use number of people in attendance instead.

Ask who has the time and talent to implement these goals, but team members take ownership of the plan

- Aspirations → What and How → Ownership
- Connect objectives with actions – are we moving a cathedral, or are we just moving bricks?

Root principles

- S.M.A.R.T. goals – they are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Timely
- New wine in new wineskins – not just repackaging old ideas or plugging new ideas into a system that’s broken

Specific Committee Responsibilities

- Mission – set path forward, work on building blocks
- Finance – action plan
- School – look at FAST Plan, benchmark report
- All incorporate building blocks into plans
- Scribe writes notes from each group and subgroup

Next week's meeting will be on Wednesday, October 30 – special date!

Brainstorming time in groups for a little more than an hour. For specifics on what was surfaced during this time, see the separate brainstorming notes from each of the five working groups.

Remarks

Father Ron Kalas, Vicar

- Vicar for Vicariate II (area from the cathedral all the way to Northbrook)
- Helps out since Bishop Kane became Vicar General (2nd to Cardinal George)
- No longer a parish pastor so has some time to be Vicar
- Works closely with Msgr. Jim and the other deans – also a dean himself
- Spoke to Msgr. Jim on Monday as he was leaving for travel, was asked to stop by the meeting
- Excited by possibilities for Parish Transformation, has seen it in a few other parishes and been impressed by efforts
- Enjoyed sitting in with School group and taking part in discussion
- Works with Vicariate II coordinators of catechesis (Chuy) and Youth Ministry (Josh, Deacon Bill's son!)

Feedback from Committees (Working Groups)

Deacon Bill and Team

- Spent time making big wish lists, but not in vain –everything we do should be because Christ is here

School

- brainstormed, lots of different ideas
- questions about capacity of the school (how much can expand?) and tuition
- suggestion of “Take Your Parent to Church Day” from Fr. Ron

Finance

- Went through benchmark report – data is 15 months old, Bill Brennan will update
- Went through assessment – can dovetail into building blocks of Communion and Spiritual Stewardship
- Efforts to welcome new parishioners – discussed possibility of fundraising receptions in rectory to learn about parish and meet the staff
- Presenting more information to the parish on the financial state
 - Give sense of ownership, see the broader picture, encourage more regular giving
 - Hope that parish knows of work of Finance Council – multiple eyes are looking at financials, good to have transparency

Comments from Fr. Ron Kalas

- History of conflicts between archdiocese and local parishes
- Betsy Boland, new CFO, improving communication with parishes
- Sent letter in August to Pastors and Finance Councils which bears a look
 - Explained what they are trying to do financially in the wider church
 - What the leadership is about, trying to balance the budget by 2015
 - Deficits down but still in the hole – layoffs last spring an important step, part of reorganizing

- Can call Judy Keefe or Joe Lange in the Vicariate II office for a copy of the letter
- Have to relate to one another and interact, blunt the antagonism – we are part of a whole
- Financial report to parishioners usually made in the fall
 - No reason to hide the financial situation, see how the parish operations work
 - Vicars meet with pastors to get the financial info from parishes so they can report to the Cardinal and he gets a picture of the whole archdiocese
- Ideas flow up and flow back, reduce antagonism
- Thank you for what you are doing, building the future!

Mission

- Communion, Spiritual Stewardship – lots of ideas, brainstorming went well
- Mission Narrative – developed outline of the narrative, comfortable with it
- Evangelization, Catechesis, Missionary Spirit – lots of good ideas, bringing unity

Closing Prayer

Deacon Bill and Team

Monsignor Reynold Hillenbrand

- Very influential as a leader of the Liturgical Movement in Chicago
- Tapped to be rector of the seminary at age of 31
- Later pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Winnetka – first pastor to turn altar around
- Advisor at the Second Vatican Council for the document on the laity
- Phenomenal priest, deep convictions, very spiritual
- Give thanks for his contributions to liturgical worship
- **Prayer:** *In the morning let me know your love for I put my trust in you. Make me know the way I should walk: to you I lift up my soul. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.*

Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

*Notes prepared by Rachel Hohner, Communications Leader & Steering Committee Member
10/29/2013*