

## **Parish Transformation Kick-off Meeting – September 12, 2013, Queen of Angels Parish**

### ***In Attendance:***

Msgr. Jim Kaczorowski, Pastor	Ed Duffy	Patty Peterson
Deacon Bill Smyser, Faciliator	Albert Ferolie	Ladime Ramirez
Connie Beckman	Jim Hohner	Jack Recinto
Michael Beckman	Rachel Hohner (SC)	Guillermo Rizzo
Karen Brady	Cathy Irvine	Lindida Rizzo
Bill Brennan	Marie K.	Joann Salas
Tom Budziszewski	Julia Kelly	Guadalupe Salazar
Anne Butzen	Lisa Krappman	Reshelle Scheffler
Fred Butzen	Brian Lunt	Erin Shea
Chris Callahan (SC)	Tom McCarthy	Veronica Siegle
Joe Cook	Richard Morton	John Smith
Mary Corrado	Loretta Namovic	Dennis Temple
Tom Donnelly (SC)	Deacon Ben Nieves	Maira Urizar
Pat Drennan	Maria Nieves	Liz Wannemacher

***Not Present:*** Tad Kolke, Matt Persohn (SC), Victor Martinez (SC) = Steering Committee

*Refreshments and informal conversation at discussion tables. Team members received copies of the [Parish Transformation Mission Workbook](#). Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m.*

### **Introductory Remarks**

**Deacon Bill Smyser, Facilitator**

- Met many parishioners at Masses last weekend, will get to know us over 12 weeks
- Deacon at St. Aloysius Parish near St. Elizabeth Hospital
  - Tapped as facilitator during their PT process in Fall 2012
  - Parish wasn't sure what they were getting into, but had faith in the process and were open to the work of the Holy Spirit
- Agenda overview
  - Opening prayer will always focus on a saint or saintly person who had great impact in the Americas – introduction to who they are, prayer to ask their intercession
  - Welcome and introductions, short video and discussion of it, reflection exercise, questions about Parish Transformation, dates for next meetings
- Please turn off or silence phones; restrooms are down the hall to the left if needed

### **Opening Prayer**

**Deacon Bill Smyser, Facilitator**

St. Peter Claver, Spanish Jesuit missionary to the Americas

- Often seen as saint for African Americans in Latin America
- Catechized Africans sold as slaves, always there at harbor when ships disembarked
- Maneuvered through crowds, helped by a few lay assistants practicing Corporal Works of Mercy to the sick and dying

Why St. Peter Claver for Parish Transformation? Had no idea where spirit would take him, but was open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit

- God has a plan for us! let God be God, see how God's grace works in our lives
- If we trust, we will where uncover our mission, find the Spirit at work

*Prayer based on Matthew 25:35-36*

### **Welcome**

**Msgr. Jim Kaczorowski, Pastor**

- Excited you're here, know each of you, excited to work with you

- Want us to be so transformed by Christ that he will enter the marrow of our bones and change the face of our parish more Christ-like – let God do what God wants to do!
- Has experienced that people come back to Church because they are accompanied during hard moments in their lives; no one will be converted by words alone – have to see how happy & transformed we are
- Over the course of this 12-week, 24-hour retreat, may we be so affected that our parish will be changed by the Holy Spirit

Introduce members of Steering Committee

- Mission – Tom Donnelly
- Finances – Chris Callahan
- School – Matt Persohn, traveling for business trip
- still choosing Implementation Leader as center of gravity for after 12 weeks
- Communications Leader – Rachel Hohner, taking and posting notes, will materials to website

### **Introductions**

**Deacon Bill Smyser & Team**

Pair up with someone you don't know, interview each other for 5 minutes to get 4 pieces of information: 1) who you are, 2) how long you have been a member of Queen of Angels, 3) something no one else here knows about you, and 4) what keeps you in the parish.

*After 5 minutes, each person introduced their partner to the whole group.*

Attendees spent a few minutes finding out something about a person at the meeting they did not know before.

Purpose: to find out what we have in common, get to know each other because we'll be together for 12 weeks; we should appreciate each other, walk away feeling connected to each other.

Parish Transformation infuses connectivity

- How do we stay connected? We create synergy, charisma
- We are kept at Queen of Angels by family, liturgy, music, community, feeling we belong, welcoming people, having a deep sense of faith when here – great descriptors to build on during this journey
- Faith not just an idea, but a way of feeling closer to God
- Great diversity: long-time and new parishioners from various walks of life

### **Video – “Welcome to Parish Transformation”**

**<http://youtu.be/M6k1oXan6JE>**

*Viewed video (7 minutes, 36 seconds).*

### **Discussion of Video**

**Deacon Bill Smyser and Team**

Video hosted by Fr. Ron Lewinski, who was instrumental with the Strategic Plan

Every parish will do Parish Transformation —100 have completed the process already, 30 parishes are in the current wave, more will do this next spring

Purpose: We are at the crossroads as Catholics, we hunger to know and be engaged in the faith

- Young Catholics are interested in evangelization and the corporal works of mercy; they want to engage
- Mature Catholics want to learn more too
- All hungry to get involved

Get people together and find out where the parish wants to go

- Keep an open mind – not about where you want to go, let the Holy Spirit work through the process
- Real work will begin after the 12 weeks are over, to implement the action plan
- Try not to get ahead of yourself, stay focused
- Try not to get frustrated by unknown answers

Each week, team will discuss the readings in the workbook, share with the group

- Choose 1-3 of the Building Blocks on page 21 in the workbook: Missionary Spirit, Call to Holiness, Spiritual Stewardship, Evangelization, Catechesis, Prayer and Worship, Communion
- Then break into Mission, Finance and School for the last few weeks, come up with three group plans

Comments about the message of the video – encouragement to try, nothing to lose, focus on faith, don't stay on the sidelines, take the opportunity

- Look at parish through the eyes of Jesus – can be both inviting and scary, since we don't know what we will see
- Go beyond the comfortable – squirm, experience discomfort, deal with new groups (homeless, those separated from the Church?)
- Parish Transformation is not just for me, it's for parishioners – you are their voice!

#### Overview of Process

- Building Blocks → Mission, Finance, School → Action Plan → Implementation
- Initiative built around themes from 3 Gospel Passages: “pearl of great price”, “new wine in new wineskins” and stewardship
- Mission Narrative –your story, captures your charism, goal, vision to be presented to the Bishop as the parish's document
- Steering Committee and Pastor meet with bishop and 2 staff from archdiocese

Experience from St. Aloysius

- Previous mission focused on theme “Growing and Sharing in Jesus Christ” – took things doing well, kept building on it
- Make sure narrative inspires committee and has long term vision – not a wish list, pick 3-4 things and do them well
- Identified goal of adult catechesis
- Surveyed parishioners – wanted to learn more on Scripture, sacraments, social justice and prayer life
- Planned comprehensive Scripture study
  - Class on Matthew focusing on themes of social justice, prayer and kingdom
  - Running through Advent Lent Easter, to maybe repeat next year for Mark and Luke
- Goals may be running on or through rest of parish life, not all to be done in one year

#### Questions

#### Deacon Bill Smyser & Team

- Why present to the bishop? (Currently to Episcopal Vicar Father Ron Kalas, in Vicariate II) – there to support, curious about what parishes are doing; vicar (pastor for all parishes in area); guides; has resources, has realism about what can be done
- Action Plan example: Goal to enhance the offerings to youth or young adults; implementation involves meeting with catechesis team and leader representatives from language groups, might include a goal to have 100 more people participate or earn 15 hours of catechesis
- Workbook Packet is the road map with foundations for mission exercises for each week an exercise for each week

*Meeting attendees read silently the reflection on the process of being patient on pages 6-7 in the Mission Workbook.*

## **Reminders**

**Deacon Bill Smyser**

### Parish Transformation Survey

- Please complete the survey, encourage others to complete, need enough feedback
- Available in Spanish, can respond online until 9/29 or by paper survey until 9/22

### Schedule for the next few weeks – Mission at the Heart of Parish Life

- Week 2 PowerPoint presentation from Steering Committee
- Week 3 Mission narrative
- Week 4 survey results, Evangelization and Catechesis
- Week 5 Spiritual Stewardship
- Week 6 more Building Blocks
- Weeks 7 – 11 begin together, have breakout sessions of Mission, Finance and School
- Week 11 pull together, present draft to each other
- Week 11 & 12 double meeting, beginning at 6:30 pm

Must identify implementation leader

Meetings will start at 7:00 and end at 9:00

May change Halloween meeting?

Our Lady of Ransom workshop for Steering Committee only Saturday 10/26

January/February – present plan to vicar

Will project on bigger area (wall), gradual turning on of lights, affirmation to sit where you want

First six weeks are informal reflection groups – move around each week, continue discussion

Communications: notes posted to website by Wednesday at the latest, can catch up before next meeting

Request to deepen the prayer for discernment process – pray each day for the group

- Possibility of putting together a prayer all could say together or individually at home, to publish in bulletin?
- Read ahead in the workbook and reflect on the reading
- Prayer during or after intercessions at Masses
- Look at what you are doing as a retreat, not as a business meeting
- Affirm using meditation on page 7 as prayer during next week

First assignment – read pages 8 – 15 in workbook

- Question: Focus on 2 – 3 Scripture passages that touch you
- How might this Scripture passage inspire the mission to which we are being called as a parish?
- Groups will have own idea what mission will be

Will call on someone to do a closing prayer.

## **Closing Prayer**

**John Smith**

*Adjourned at 9:03 p.m.*

*Notes prepared by Rachel Hohner, Communications Leader & Steering Committee Member  
9/18/2013*