

Parish Transformation Meeting #2 – September 19, 2013, Queen of Angels Parish

In Attendance:

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

Not Present:, Ed Duffy, Lisa Krappman, Richard Morton, Loretta Namovic, Maria Nieves, Reshelle Scheffler, Dennis Temple, Maira Urizar.

Refreshments and informal conversation at discussion tables. Team members not present at the kick-off meeting received copies of the Parish Transformation Mission Workbook. Copies of the workbook in Spanish were also distributed. Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Welcome, Introductions, Prayer

Deacon Bill Smyser, Facilitator

- Self-introduction by team members not present at 9/12 kick-off meeting: Beth Kraszewski, Matt Persohn, Tad Kolke, Victor Martinez.
- Opening Prayer: The Lord's Prayer (Our Father) while standing and holding hands

Introductory Remarks

Deacon Bill

- 40 parishioners at last meeting: got to know each other, real sense of community and of God being at the center of life – how can bring these things together?
- More than 100 surveys completed; paper due Monday 9/23, online due Sunday 9/29
- About coming together for mission plan and building blocks
 - Develop document with goals for mission
Select someone to help implement the goals
 - Extend goals over 2-3 years – not just one shot
 - Workbook is roadmap for the process, will do exercise based on pages 8-10
- Interesting points gleaned from last week's meeting:
 - Msgr. Jim spoke about seeing parish through the eyes of Jesus and through own experiences
 - Pastor knows parishioners but parishioners must get to know each other – meet people you didn't know before
 - Diverse group with the central theme of community
 - Going beyond what is comfortable

Brainstorming Our Hopes and Concerns

Deacon Bill and Team

- Opportunity to express hopes and concerns for the parish
- Break into seven groups, write individual hopes and concerns on sticky notes – hopes on yellow, concerns on purple

- Share with small group, then select rep. to share 1 hope and 1 concern with whole team
- Facilitators designated for each small group: Tom Donnelly (6), Matt Persohn (7), Jack Recinto (5), Cathy Irvine (2), Tom McCarthy (4), Deacon Bill Smyser (1), Chris Callahan (3).

Discussion in small groups at tables for 20 minutes. The full list of hopes (yellow) and concerns (purple), gathered from the sticky notes handed in, follows.

HOPES: Parish will keep growing along with the school. * I hope the neighborhood will stay safe and the parish will remain strong so families can grow together in the likeness of Christ. * School parents become involved in life of the parish, not just school programs; more groups like St. Vincent de Paul will be formed for good works. * Continued strong community sharing parish talents. * Continued growth within parish and school; keeping a strong parent community; retaining pastoral leadership; endowment; welcoming. * College prep and higher education; information e.g. bible study and lives of saints; higher attendance at Mass. * That we can develop some ministry that will encourage adult faith formation; more parishioners volunteer to help with ministries; more people go to confession and use the sacraments; adoration. * People get to know each other and all people are welcome. * Continued growth, financial security and responsibility, ability to adjust with *changes – societal*. * Be visible to others because of work; become more energized by Christ; we have a language to talk about Christ; all work together to achieve Christ focus, not factions (e.g. school vs. church). * I hope this church lives forever. * Expand our school enrollment (school stays viable); church remains truly inclusive; outreach to all groups. * Stays a strong community; Msgr. Jim stays on for the full 7 years and a quality Associate Pastor comes in; parish membership/church participation grows; stays strong financially. * Teens to stay here; integration of school and non-school families; people to see the joy of being Catholic. * Connect community; thirst for Catholicism; increased participation across

CONCERNS: Inclusion. * Losing touch with mission; expanding our parish; pettiness; finances. * Drop in numbers; division between diverse communities. * We need more priests; sleeping Christianity; not many in Mass. * I am concerned that there may be too many distractions. * Busy schedules create separation; different factions/groups; lack of understanding of what makes parish run; financial pressures over the long term. * No clear way of communicating to parish as whole regarding decisions; no Parish Council; future reduction of priests cause parishes to merge (necessary but could be difficult). * Indifference (value of prayer); apathy re: salvation; addictions and negative lifestyle. * Focus on those in financial need more than those in spiritual need; school is going to become outdated with new French school moving into neighborhood. * Parish prayers of the faithful are too parish-centered, not concerned with disaster areas. * Declining involvement with college-age and 20's-30's group. * Parents who don't feel equipped to be models of faith for their kids or do anything faith-wise in the space between sacraments. * Revenue decline resulting in close; lack of community impact; poor understanding of doctrine by Catholics. * A few running many things; get stale or too familiar when new people aren't involved. * Shrinking Mass attendance; struggling finances; laity too frazzled to step up; people are really struggling. * Lack of support for the high school age; are they being asked to give back when they haven't been filled yet; obligatory hugging and hand-holding. * Desire there but not able to execute. * Difficult in reaching to all *Catholics*; may not be contemporary enough; find balance between old and new beliefs/teachings. * I'm concerned about not many young people. * Isolation/withdrawal; content in day to day, don't stretch spiritually; take care of community. * Financial stability; exclusion toward certain groups; overworking our pastor, laypeople to step up; the decline of participating parishioners. *

<p>all & from school; one member of a group; <i>financial enivgoring</i>, long-term project in responsible manner. * Increased membership; increased involvement of parishioners; increased engagement in liturgy. * Youth; spiritual life; catechesis; community-wide participation (activity); finances/stewardship. * Retain teens as move into high school and beyond; integrate Spanish/English activities; Mass interesting for kids. * To increase the number of parishioners; let the people know the importance of having God in <i>our lives to a message</i>. * Msgr. K. has good health; parish and school continue to grow in numbers and spirituality; parish/school can develop resources to continue their mission. * An inclusive, welcoming community; a place for everyone; direct community service projects. * Know community by outreach to young people; greater interaction between Anglo and Hispanic communities; deeper involvement by individuals in parish. * Greater positive recognition by media; increased Mass attendance; thriving school; strong outreach to community. * Resurrect the Peace & Justice Committee; own the ministries outside our own parish. * School becomes a destination/aspiration for neighborhood and beyond; sense of community draws broader crowd at Mass and community events.</p>	<p>There aren't enough people volunteering for things; we need to bring Catholics home, so many people don't attend Mass; people don't understand why or care why the Church teaches what they do on hot-button issues. * Maintaining our aging plant; dwindling number of clergy, especially priests; changing demographics <i>in area</i>; a more transient population, harder to build <i>community</i>. * Spanish/English separate events; seniors don't attend events except Mass. * School quality going down; gang activity in the area; Msgr. Jim retiring; outgrow the school building; my son gets kicked out of school. * Economy and its effect on parishioners and school parents; lack of young people interest in church; fewer priests. * Lack of congregation engagement in liturgy; lack of welcoming and orientation for new members. * All the groups at Queen of Angels don't interact; hard to get more people involved; resistance to change; defenses of turf; "it doesn't matter" thinking, no thought to value. * Youth ministry; school; discipleship; sacramental confession; <i>non-contraception</i>. * Cultural barriers and language. * Parent involvement within church; growing costs of educating a child; capital improvements afforded. * Has faith in the Catholic religion been decreased? * That the parish will modify the message of the Church to gain more parishioners. * More inclusion and community activities for CCD, i.e. training for altar servers; we don't bring enough awareness to the work that is being done here. * Need more ways to engage teens and seniors; financial health/improvements.</p>
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italics = handwriting unclear, meaning/intention may be obscured

Summarizing Our Hopes and Concerns

Deacon Bill and Team

Lots to discuss, finding commonality in our hopes and concerns from the 7 groups.

Reporters for each small group: Erin Shea (7), Albert Ferolie (1), Patty Peterson (6), Cathy Irvine (2), Jack Recinto (5), Chris Callahan (3), Tom McCarthy (4).

	MAJOR HOPES	MAJOR CONCERNS
7	<p>Teens grow in faith.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being contemporary without sacrificing values. • Conquering a young person's desire to skip Mass. • Fostering youth to choose to participate. 	<p>Isolation of different groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language barriers and Mass-going habits prevent mixing of families. • Centennial celebrations were opportunity to include all and intermingle.
1	<p>Improve faith formation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth go from Confirmation to volunteering without having been completely filled with 	<p>Greater participation among ministries & in the Mass.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups in own little boxes.

	faith. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to understand different ministries and teachings in the Church. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need better communication between groups. • More assistance for Pastor.
6	Keeping young people & language groups connected. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage engagement of teens. • Connections between groups forged during parish Centennial. 	Lack of welcoming and engagement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good welcoming from Pastor at Mass. • Birthday wishes announced when known. • Reception/donuts or dinner for new families after Masses?
2	Identify & send outreach ministers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tasking with ministry through public blessing at Mass? 	Broaden base of parish leadership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership board for Pastor. • Discover which groups are defunct, discuss and possibly rebuild.
5	More intentional faith. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Path to spiritual health through fasting and prayer. 	Church losing respect, actions not on behalf of God. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must discourage placing self-interests ahead of God.
<i>5-minute break between reports. Sticky notes were collected and displayed on the wall.</i>		
3	Breaking down barriers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between CCD and school families, English- and Spanish-speaking, involved and not involved. 	Ignorance & apathy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ignorance of doctrine and apathy in prayer life that lead to less practice and engagement in the faith.
4	Build on ministry to young families. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good work in school, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Scouts. • Outreach to newly baptized? 	Expand parish within and without as one family. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome more parishioners. • Close gap with the older generation.

Common threads: engagement, participation, youth, barriers, connection.

Keep these in mind over next weeks: see how hopes and concerns develop into objectives

OTHER HOPES? Outreach for senior citizens – already bring Communion in hospital, but is there a social group? * Lack of information and transparency about available parish programs, from the parish leadership down and from the parishioners/groups up – difficult to find information on website and in bulletin; need directory? * Financial stability updates; area Catholic high school access through learning about their recent development/growth * May not need special meetings or groups for seniors, they just want to get to existing meetings and Mass, difficult in winter – some churches have pick-up vans

Mission at the Heart of Parish Life

Deacon Bill and Readers

Everyone is busy, why have a parish?

Must be room for Jesus in the parish life, illustrated in quotes for reflection ([Workbook](#), p. 10).

Team members were invited to read out loud the 5 quotes:

- [Matthew 28:19-20](#) (The Great Commission), read by *Albert Ferolie*
- [Tweet from Pope Francis, 5/5/2013](#) (“Every Christian is a missionary”), read by *Deacon Bill*
- Excerpt from [Christifideles Laici](#) #27 (“a house of welcome and a place of service”), read by *Tad Kolke*
- Excerpt from [Redemptoris Missio](#) #26 (“fraternal communion”), read by *Beth Kraszewski*
- Excerpt from [Address to the Bishops of Brazil](#) at World Youth Day 2013 (“We need a Church capable of meeting them on their way”), read by *Liz Wannemacher*

Being missionary

- Sometimes thought of as spreading the Gospel to places where there is no Christianity
 - Also how we are missionary in our own community, in what we do
- The New Evangelization is spreading the Gospel and getting on fire
- Fan the ember and create that flame by seeing selves as a missionary church
 - Making Jesus Christ part of our life – where is he in our mission spirituality?

Personal Reflection and Parish Reflection **Deacon Bill and Team**

Discuss *Personal Reflection* questions on p. 10 of the [Mission Workbook](#)

- What do I understand to be the mission and ministry of Jesus?
- How is the mission and ministry of Jesus reflected in my life?

Also discuss second, third or fourth of the *Parish Reflection* questions on same page:

- What is the spiritual/biblical foundation for our parish’s mission and ministry?
- How might our parish mission be shaped by the demographics of our parish?
- What difference does our parish make in our neighborhood?

Discussion in small groups for 5 minutes, then voluntary sharing of comments with whole team.

Ministry and Mission of Jesus

- Glimpses of how to live life in the Gospel, opportunities for outreach and feeding
- Meeting here because we don’t know what our mission should be!

Foundation of Mission and Ministry

- Be brave and honest, go deep, have courage; stay on point with our message
- “Preach the Gospel; if you have to, use words.” – St. Francis of Assisi
- Faith can become a shell unless we are being challenged and being Christian every day
- Faithful disciples must be courageous when facing challenges
- Plant seeds of something great

Difference Made in the Neighborhood

- Can the parish make a difference? – need a place to worship or will look somewhere else, changing dynamics of neighborhood
- Outreach to the poor through St. Vincent de Paul, lots of good works
- Sign of hope to all people
- School makes a huge impact
- Efforts of catechists make a difference
- No better SPRED program – well-organized and open to persons with disabilities; possible pearl of great price
- Encouraging holy behavior
- People almost live here, would be very different without Queen of Angels
- Great job of the choirs

Shaped by demographics

- Diverse attendance, Hispanic community, middle being squeezed out, lower/upper income, can’t focus all ministries on financial needs
- People of different religions; only 35% of residents Catholic according to informal studies
- Need greater efforts to evangelize

Parish Transformation will bring out hidden treasures, develop objectives and a road map

Missionary spirit invites others to “come and see” – how to illuminate it more?

Poll: Metaphors for Parish Mission **Deacon Bill and Team**

Each team member asked individually which one of 6 metaphors spoke to them.

1. Village fountain – 5 votes
2. Greenhouse growing new disciples – 3 votes
3. Oasis of hope – 6 votes

4. Place of Divine Encounter – 8 votes
5. Center for learning and launch pad for mission – 6 votes
6. A living sacrament of Christ and a moral voice in the world – 6 votes

For Next Meeting

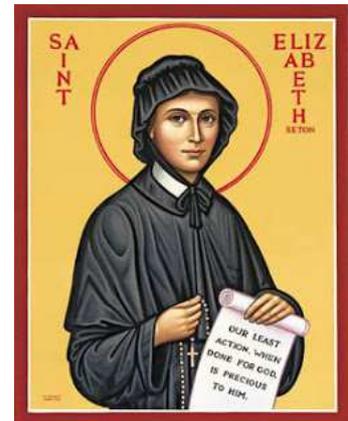
Deacon Bill

- Notes will be typed up – see website for those from last week’s meeting
- Read about Pearl of Great Price on pp. 13-14 in [Mission Workbook](#)
- Look at examples of Mission Narrative on pp. 16-17 of [Mission Workbook](#)
- At September 26 meeting, will start with Parish Overview presented by Steering Committee

Closing Prayer

Deacon Bill and Team

- Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, foundress of Sisters of Charity
- Married well, had children, then widowed
- Desired to evangelize families, founded Catholic schools in Baltimore
- Outreach to immigrants
- Listened to God’s call, allowed God’s grace to change her life
- **Prayer:** *O God, who crowned with the gift of true faith Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's burning zeal to find you, grant by her intercession and example that we may always seek you with diligent love and find you in daily service with sincere faith. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.*



Adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

*Notes prepared by Rachel Hohner, Communications Leader & Steering Committee Member
9/26/2013*