

Parish Transformation Meeting #3 – September 26, 2013, Queen of Angels Parish

In Attendance:

Msgr. Jim Kaczorowski, Pastor	Jim Hohner	Matt Persohn (SC)
Deacon Bill Smyser, Faciliator	Rachel Hohner (SC)	Patty Peterson
Connie Beckman	Cathy Irvine	Ladime Ramirez
Michael Beckman	Julia Kelly	Joann Salas
Anne Butzen	Marie Koehazi	Guadalupe Salazar
Fred Butzen	Tad Kolke	Veronica Siegle
Chris Callahan (SC)	Beth Kraszewski	John Smith
Joe Cook	Brian Lunt	Dennis Temple
Mary Corrado	Tom McCarthy	Liz Wannemacher
Albert Ferolie	Deacon Ben Nieves	(SC) = Steering Committee

Not Present: Karen Brady, Bill Brennan, Tom Budziszewski, Tom Donnelly (SC), Pat Drennan, Ed Duffy, Lisa Krappman, Victor Martinez, Richard Morton, Loretta Namovic, Maria Nieves, Jack Recinto, Guillermo Rizzo, Lindida Rizzo, Erin Shea, Maira Urizar.

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

Welcome, Prayer and Introductory Remarks Deacon Bill Smyser, Facilitator

- Opening prayer for guidance
- Do we feel like we're getting it yet? OK, still early in the Transformation process
- Review and feedback from previous meeting
- Hopes & concerns, finding solutions – attracting youth & young people, connecting groups
- Mission at the Heart of Parish Life – everyone so busy, why have a parish?
 - Good question, startling – are we really committed to the Gospel?
 - If busy lives are taking over, what can we do differently?
 - Being disciples every day
 - Vision of Queen of Angels Parish: **place of divine encounter**
- Think of these as we begin the Mission Narrative and look at the Building Blocks

Parish Overview Steering Committee

History, Patron, Current Situation (slide 2)

Rachel Hohner

- Parish History
 - second-generation Irish & German immigrants into English-speaking blended parish from nearby ethnic parishes
 - first Mass on top of a piano on the second floor of a bar at Lincoln & Montrose
 - Guild Hall & Parish Center as closed car dealerships in Great Depression – to social center where people could look for work
- Parish Patron
 - Mary, mother of Jesus who reigns with him in heaven as queen
 - Probably named for several Marian feasts in August (month of founding in 1909)
- Current Situation
 - Neighborhood gentrifying, less Catholic than 25 years ago
 - Little debt, but challenged by hard economic times & carrying mission forward

Parish Ministries (slides 3-9)

Msgr. Jim Kaczorowski

- Many, many ministries, but several stand out:
 - Spanish charismatic prayer group, Bible Study, adult education events
 - Blue Ribbon award-winning school (from Dept. of Education this week!)

- NCEA award-winning Commons
- Religious Ed, SPRED, RCIA
- St. Vincent de Paul and new youth group just beginning

[Note: Communications leader called briefly from room; some content missing from notes.]

Trends, statistics and demographics (slides 10-14)

Msgr. Jim Kaczorowski

- Parish Key Trends
 - Mass attendance counted in October by ushers and Music Director, numbers often depend on who is counting
 - Registered families, enrollment, baptisms growing
 - Additional weddings out of town for couples who attend at Queen of Angels but all their family is in another city – easier to prepare here but fly home for the wedding
 - Funerals fairly steady
- Demographics
 - Losing minority populations from neighborhood, especially Hispanics – many can't afford to live here, but may still consider themselves part of Queen of Angels
 - Very diverse Hispanic population compared with St. Adalbert in Pilsen where 90-95% of Hispanics were Mexican – here have Colombians, Puerto Ricans, Guatemalans, Ecuadorians, Peruvians, Salvadorans, etc.
- Only mixed success with bilingual Masses
 - Good experience with Corpus Christi though it has gotten smaller
 - For holy day evening bilingual Masses, Anglos have been going to English Mass in morning and Hispanics don't want to go at all
 - Have to get people together, invite to eat, have a multicultural experience together
- Great community, show true character, joyful and happy to be here

Financials (slides 15-17)

Chris Callahan

- Minor church deficit – surplus/deficit tends to be extremely fluid, surplus eaten by capital expenditures and contingencies
- School & church together have \$3.2 million in total expenses – big money operation with lots of moving parts
- Working here for less than they could make elsewhere – no CEO salary for Pastor, teachers, admin. staff
- School/combined surplus goes toward summer payroll & expenses for summer camp & teachers (camp fees & tuition all collected before 6/30, paid in July & August)

Comments, Questions & Answers

Msgr. Jim Kaczorowski

- Believe school and parish should work together, very proud of work with Julia Kelly
 - Do things in kind, so no part bears the burden – school is one of our greatest ministries
 - Gym class & athletic operations are a school expense, but remodel funding came from parish and Athletic Board, insurance paid by parish
 - Most funding for Lyman Scholarship comes from parishioners
- How does Annual Catholic Appeal funding help?
 - Q of A normally does extremely well, exceeding goal & getting rebate to parish
 - Source of \$40,000 that enabled resurfacing of parking lot
 - Debt Reduction campaign in 2010 – match from archdiocesan funds for every dollar raised by parish, able to pay off \$100,000 church boiler debt
 - In 2014, will be doing archdiocesan capital campaign, To Teach Who Christ Is, instead – 60% stays in parish, 40% to archdiocese for struggling schools & parishes
- Does Queen of Angels receive other money from the Archdiocese?
 - Annual Catholic Appeal is rebate on funds raised in parish beyond our goal, not a gift
 - Grants from ACA funds given to other parishes with particular struggles

- Perception that if worldwide Church (Rome) is rich, money trickles down – not the case
- In the U.S., parishes are like franchises – percentage of income paid to archdiocese, distributed to other “franchises” in need or for running of diocesan administration
- In other countries (Germany), church may receive government subsidies
- Mainly fundraising and some grants make up the difference between tuition and the real cost of educating a child – major fundraisers like Track-a-Thon and Winter Toast
- Any major capital expenditures coming in the next 1-2 years?
 - School cafeteria done last winter; gym already redone to prevent shin splints/injuries
 - Try not to defer maintenance, Business Manager gets on it right away

Parish Mission Statement (slide 18) – written around 1998 or 1999, revised a little since then

Meditation on the “Pearl of Great Price”

Deacon Bill and Team

Team members were invited to read out loud the 3 quotes on p. 15 of the [Mission Workbook](#):

- Matthew 13:44-46 (Buried Treasure and the Pearl of Great Price), *read by Matt Persohn*
- Hammond, The Thin Book of Appreciative Inquiry (“what we focus on becomes our reality”), *read by Veronica Siegle*
- Pope Paul VI quote from *Discourse to the Roman Clergy #26* (indispensable mission of the parish), *read by Joe Cook*

Instructions for small group discussion

- Discuss questions for Personal Reflection, p. 15 of the [Mission Workbook](#):
 - What do I value most about my parish? What are the “pearls of great price”?
 - What advice would I give to someone who is looking for a parish to join?
 - What are the three most important things I believe we should be able to say about every parish?
- On blue sticky notes, write one “pearl of great price” you see in the parish
- Share your “pearl” with your table; select 2 from table to share with whole team
- Decide who will be note-taker and who will speak for the table group

Discussion of questions & sharing of individual “pearls” in small groups for 20 minutes. The full list of “pearls of great price,” gathered from the blue sticky notes handed in, follows.

“PEARLS OF GREAT PRICE”: Liturgy/Eucharist that strengthens us for living the truth of the Gospel * Ministries that form and empower us to live the Gospel through outreach * School community * Facilities & location, *property, office, amenities*; Men’s Club / social activities opportunities; Community * The school; the liturgy and how it calls us to PARTICIPATE; Fr. Jim; music * Role models for Christian living * Christian role models; couples and individuals, many in English/Hispanic communities in stewardship of each other; many ministries to be involved; Sunday homilies *to act* as Christians; sermons stay on message, how can I help you or what’s in it for me * Liturgy; a beautiful setting; lovely music and ceremony; a welcoming congregation * Eucharistic Adoration * Welcoming to families with young kids, no glaring * Ministries meeting human and justice needs: St. Vincent de Paul, SPRED, Commons Service Team * Church as prayer environment, unity of style, tasteful decoration, liturgies with style and grace; *have church, festivals, opportunities to talk and make friends, food after 12:30 Mass*; our parishioners * The spirit of community; welcoming into a community to everyone; community, liturgy, stewardship * Mary, all paths are peace * Blue Ribbon school and choir * Inspiration through all that’s done at Q of A, starts every Sunday with sermon * School * The Mass and everything that’s in the Mass, but especially the people who I feel are there to increase their relationship with Christ so I can take that connection into my daily life * Community * Talent in the parish: doctors, lawyers, teachers, politicians, artists, business people, professionals

italics = handwriting unclear, meaning/intention may be obscured

Summarizing Our “Pearls of Great Price”

Deacon Bill and Team

1	Community – welcoming, faith-based	2	Setting including décor & windows of the church, organ, park area, Lincoln Square, river
3	Liturgy/Eucharist inspiring us with the truth of the Gospel	4	Parish ministries which help us to live the Gospel through formation & outreach
(1)	Welcoming community	5	Faith-based education giving a grounding in formation through the school, Rel. Ed, SPRED, etc.
6	Inspiring stewardship	(4)	Ministries which allow you to grow in faith in many different ways with a variety of gifts and interests; can make a ministry your own

Did we miss anything else that could be important as a “pearl of great price”?

7	Role models for Christian living – many, not few; include parents, individuals, groups
8	Pastoral leadership
9	Music and readings at liturgies – lectors and cantors do well, proclaiming not acting; feel closer to Jesus through ministry; never going through the motions or phoning it in; show a subtle confidence with excellence as the goal; high expectations without being competitive; people are just doing what they love to do

Poll: Refining Our “Pearls of Great Price”

Deacon Bill and Team

Must whittle the list down to 3 “pearls”

Suggestions to combine some of the “pearls” that seem to go together in same theme/category

Team members were polled individually about their choice for the “pearl of great price”.

NUMBERS	DESCRIPTION	# VOTES
1	Community	6
2	Setting	3
3 & 9	Liturgy: excellence in proclaiming the word and song	8
4	Parish ministries	1
5	Faith-based education (formation)	3
6 & 7 & 8	Christian Leadership: role models, stewardship, pastoral leaders	4

Result: “Pearls of Great Price” narrowed to **Community, Liturgy, and Leadership.**

Mission Narrative

Deacon Bill and Team

- Look at the Mission Narrative through the three lenses of our “Pearls of Great Price”
- Each table uses one of the 5 attributes on p. 19 of the [Mission Workbook](#) to compose some text which could be part of the Mission Narrative

ATTRIBUTE OF A MISSION NARRATIVE (Mission Workbook, p. 19)	POSSIBLE MISSION NARRATIVE TEXT written by teams at the meeting
Our Mission Narrative has a foundation grounded in Scripture, the Liturgy, and/or the charism of our patron saint.	Mary, the Queen of Angels, is a role model of seeking God, caring for others and caring for the world. She exemplifies humility , love, and saying “yes” to God . At the Wedding at Cana, she tells us to do whatever Christ tells us to do [John 2:5].
Our Mission Narrative stirs the imagination by using concrete and vivid language.	Being engaged in the community and present to the person in front of us through a smile, a handshake, hug or introduction, we recognize that each person we encounter is the most important person to us in that moment.

<p>Our Mission Narrative clearly articulates how we are uniquely called to live out the mission and ministry of Jesus at this time and in this place, and has been shaped by the particular circumstances, history, and culture of our community.</p>	<p>Queen of Angels is a faith-based community center serving the people of the Lincoln Square area. We reach out to the poor in the same spirit now as during the Great Depression. We meet the educational needs of the many children of the community and of adults seeking to deepen their connection with God. Like our founding members who first gathered for a parish Mass on the second floor of a local tavern, we seek to bring our faith out of the church building and into the places where we live, work, gather and play. We want to be better evangelizers of our neighbors, Catholic and non-Catholic, embracing a truly missionary spirit in our community.</p>
<p>Our Mission Narrative is relevant to parishioners already actively engaged in the parish, as well as those who may not currently take an active role in parish life.</p>	<p>Even as we reach out to new members, we cannot ignore the 99 [Luke 15:4], the workers already in the vineyard [Matthew 20:1-16]. All can continue to grow in faith. No matter what we are doing, we are leading by example, listening to others, praying about it, and bringing others back by inviting them to events and being an inclusive community. Parents bringing their children to the school or CCD for the first time can be welcomed and invited to get involved with parish ministries.</p>

For Next Meeting

Deacon Bill

- Will look at Building Blocks through the two important lenses of the **charism of our patron saint** and the “**pearls of great price**” that we have identified
- Read about Building Blocks as Foundations for Mission on pp. 20-37 in *Mission Workbook*, with particular emphasis on **Evangelization, Catechesis, Prayer & Worship, and Communion**

Closing Prayer

Deacon Bill and Team

- Servant of God Isaac Thomas Hecker, co-founder of the Paulists
- Paulists are known for good catechetical materials, because Father Hecker believed in using modern means (media) to evangelize – founder of *The Catholic World* monthly newsmagazine
- How can we better use our own modern media to evangelize?
- **Prayer:** *Almighty and ever faithful God, you spoke your Word to the world in your Son Jesus Christ, and commissioned Saint Paul to bring your word to all nations and to the ends of the earth. Your Spirit led Servant of God Isaac Hecker proclaim your word in North America using tools of the modern age. We ask you to call new missionaries in the line of Saint Paul and Father Hecker. May they burn with passion to give the Gospel a voice so that all may know the mystery of your love. May they follow the Lord Jesus with the zeal of Saint Paul and Father Hecker as they carry on the mission of our Church. In the power of your Holy Spirit, we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

*Notes prepared by Rachel Hohner, Communications Leader & Steering Committee Member
10/2/2013*