

**Parish Transformation Meeting #6 – October 17, 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)	Ladime Ramirez
Michael Beckman	Cathy Irvine	Jack Recinto
Tom Budziszewski	Julia Kelly	Guillermo Rizzo
Anne Butzen	Marie Koehazi	Joann Salas
Fred Butzen	Tad Kolke	Guadalupe Salazar
Chris Callahan (SC)	Brian Lunt	Erin Shea
Tom Donnelly (SC)	Tom McCarthy	Veronica Siegle
Pat Drennan	Deacon Ben Nieves	John Smith

***Not Present:*** Bill Brennan, Joe Cook, Mary Corrado, Ed Duffy, Lisa Krappman, Beth Kraszewski, Victor Martinez, Richard Morton, Loretta Namovic, John Peters, Dennis Temple, Maira Urizar, Liz Wannemacher. (SC) = Steering Committee

*Refreshments & informal conversation at discussion tables. Meeting called to order at 7:09 p.m.*

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

- Opening hymn: “Holy Is This Place” – verse 1 in English, verse 2 in Spanish
- Two tasks
  - Choose theme(s) for mission – get in groups and vote on top building blocks (see handout)
  - Decide which of three committees you will be on (Mission, Finances, School) – mission group them subdivided into three building blocks

**Governing Mission Theme Deacon Bill Smyser & Team**

Review lenses sheet: what’s the running theme?

- Not a Hallmark card theme, but a statement of our theme, a “to be” statement
- May lean toward a particular lens

Take a little more than 15 minutes in small groups to compose theme, then share with team

- Listen to group themes, see what’s common
- Whittle down to one unified theme
- Select scribe, write down what you have on large paper

*Twenty minutes at tables. Each table writes down their theme on easel paper for display.*

<b>#</b>	<b><u>Governing Theme(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Comments &amp; Recurring Themes</u></b>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing to build a community of people constantly seeking Christ and leading by example</li> <li>• We remember that Christ is present in us and in everyone we meet, and to love them is to love Christ</li> </ul>	Community, service, following and remembering teachings of Christ for ourselves and the least among us
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using the example of Mary to strengthen and deepen life within the parish, and reach out to the surrounding community</li> </ul>	Also community-based
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Humbly taking care of each other as Mary took care of the Apostles</li> <li>• Praying, giving mutual aid, and being friendly and unafraid to approach potential good parishioners</li> </ul>	Mary’s role in the Christian community in the days leading up to Pentecost

#	Governing Theme(s)	Comments & Recurring Themes
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With Mary as our role model, we “do as Jesus tells us” to “love one another”</li> <li>• We become role models ourselves through reaching out to others in parish communion as expressed in the Eucharist and our service to others.</li> </ul>	Role models, reaching out, developing own faith
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encounter each other as the family of Mary</li> </ul>	Encountering and presence Called to see others as brothers and sisters Mary had lots of burdens but was not dragged down by them, and we are called to do the same

Read each to selves, then return to grade school and find the verbs

1. Build, seek, lead, remember, love, meet
2. Strengthen, deepen, reach, surrounding
3. Take, care, praying, giving, being, approaching
4. Do, tell, love, become, reaching, expressed
5. Encounter

Lots of verbs there – but what are the subjects and objects? In other words, who benefits from these actions?

- community, each other (x2), parishioners, one another, others

Too vague? Too general? Must get closer to who is receiving the action

No matter what we write, we must be transformed, must start with how you are a building block for mission, how you are an evangelizer, a missionary, in communion, etc.

- Being specific will give the goals more power and validity, will help us do what we want
- We must be transformed to transform others
- If all that we do is for others and for the community, how do we describe them?

*Five minutes at tables to brainstorm ways to describe “others,” “each other” and “community”.*

Common images will help us put the picture in our head of what mission will look like.

<b>Community</b>	<b>Others</b>	<b>Each Other</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faith-based</li> <li>• Incarnates Christ</li> <li>• On fire with the Holy Spirit</li> <li>• Disciples</li> <li>• Sharing faith and needing knowledge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boundary-less area</li> <li>• Neighbors you engage (in the neighborhood)</li> <li>• People we encounter (each are Jesus)</li> <li>• Friends</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All God’s children</li> <li>• Brothers and sisters</li> <li>• Family (where Christ is)</li> </ul>

Which one hits home / inspires you? (*Vote for top image.*)

- Community – 10 votes
- Others – 2 votes
- Each other – 11 votes

Shows that we really want to work on selves before being gift to others

### **Become a community where Christ is**

We are present in all of these: we are community, we are others, we are each other

- Reason that we are here and also who we want to become
- Jesus is all-inclusive, not just one thing, runs through everything – “inclusive and capacious” nature of Jesus

Incorporate image of community using these words and with Christ as the focus

- Not doing Parish Transformation to get an award or comply with the archdiocese or pat ourselves on the back – doing this because transformation is where Christ is!

- Seeing Christ in the poor (like St. Vincent de Paul), in everyone
- We all have a story, we are all in transition and poor in some way – but what are we transitioning into?

*Eight-minute break. Deacon Bill Smyser and Fred Butzen work on drafting mission theme.*

**Mission Theme: ~~We are~~ *aspire/want to be a faith-based community, on fire with the Holy Spirit, who engage our neighbors as brothers and sisters, in the pew and on the street; a community where Christ is.***

Comments:

- Include “in our lives”?
- Parish is more nascent church – statement is aspirational definition of our community, who we want to become
- No mention of Mary – theme is our focus just as Christ is our focus; Mary will be in other parts of our mission narrative as inspiration to lead us on our way
- Not the mission narrative but may form part of it

**Building Blocks for Action Planning**

**Deacon Bill Smyser & Team**

Reflect for a few minutes on which building blocks we will concentrate on – each group looks at a building block which seems to relate to our theme and vision statements

- To look more closely at Evangelization, Missionary Spirit, Prayer and Worship, Communion and Spiritual Stewardship
- Weighted toward outreach, but reflected that work must be done internally first?
- Not covered: Catechesis, Call to Holiness

Table	Building Block	Comments
1	Evangelization	Important; school jumps out; important to get involved; lean on church attendees for lending support; making connections between members
3	Prayer & Worship	Everyone perceives our strengths here, but where do we go? 1. great choice – traditional encounters with Christ, engage neighbors, keep growing and building on it 2. already a strength – should we instead focus on other areas that need more improvement, such as personal prayer? Could go both ways!
4	Communion	Easy to combine with other building blocks
2	Missionary Spirit	At first thought not to prioritize, but is actually a close fit Self-conversion, participating in sacraments, being with each other, internal missions and fraternal charity, dealing with problems through concrete actions, outreach that is mission-minded
5	Spiritual Stewardship	80/20 rule is both a strength and a weakness How do we connect with people not already doing something Big time commitment to be part of the 20% doing 80% Could draw in others to something once a month Many have the interest, but not pulled in yet Helps to just ask them, like Msgr.’s invite to Transformation team Jesus didn’t advertise in the bulletin, made personal invite/call

Vote to do more with these building blocks (vs. staying the same)

<b>Building Block</b>	<b>Votes to Do More</b>	<b>Votes to Stay the Same</b>
Evangelization	21	5
Catechesis	14	12
Prayer and Worship	3	23
Communion	14	12
Missionary Spirit	19	7
Call to Holiness	11	15
Spiritual Stewardship	18	8

Mandate for Evangelization, Missionary Spirit, Spiritual Stewardship  
Tiebreaker for Catechesis and Communion, for result of 4 building blocks  
Encourage people to practice the faith they learn

- To love their faith, not accept it as a vaccination they don't take seriously
- We are not developing programs just to develop programs, but to make transitions in our spiritual lives
- Can include catechesis in goals

Run-off vote: Catechesis vs. Communion

<b>Votes for Catechesis</b>	<b>Votes for Communion</b>
12	12

Combine and call it Ecclesial Connection (from four components of Catechesis)? No, separate

### **For the Next Meeting**

**Deacon Bill**

- Handing out document to help decide on different committees
- Following week's meeting moved from Thursday 10/31 to Wednesday 10/30 due to Halloween
- Steering Committee will begin to write Mission Narrative over next few weeks
- Split into three committees next week, begin to write action plans

### **Closing Prayer**

**Deacon Bill and Team**

St. Frances Xavier (Mother) Cabrini

- First Chicago saint
- Worked at Columbus Hospital with immigrants
- Friend of Cardinal Mundelein
- Christmas tradition of wrapping candy for children, even when sugar rationed
- Inspiration for meeting Christ where he is
- **Prayer:** *My Jesus, I have not always recognized your loving plans for me. Every day, with the help of your light, I learn more of your loving care. Continue to increase my awareness of the gentleness of your loving plans. I want to follow the purpose for which I was created. See, I am in your hands. I need you to help me choose the best way to serve you. Walk with me, Jesus. Stay by my side and guide me!*

Adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

*Notes prepared by Rachel Hohner, Communications Leader & Steering Committee Member  
10/23/2013*