

Brother Zullo 10-11-14

Newsprint Notes from Discussion

Life Giving / Signs of Transformation

- Social Media
- Challenge / invite unengaged families to be active
- Sacramental Prep (family education)
- Community Outreach (Dinners/Renewal)
 - Build relationships
 - Evangelization
 - Service outreach
 - Prayerful support
- Pastoral Leadership (empowers others/think outside the box/open to ideas)
- Convenience of Mass Times
- Hospitality and welcoming atmosphere / Greeters / Doughnut Sunday /Parish breakfasts
- Getting people involved in different parish activities / Pierogies/ St. Vincent de Paul / Mission Society
- Opportunities for adult education – Awakening faith / Deepening faith / Sharing faith / Scripture sharing
- Mission Trips:
 - Collections → Participation (more youth, more participation)
 - Local Community Only → National (Kentucky, New Orleans), Global
- Stewardship/Outreach
 - Collaboration between parishes and community organizations
- Stark Youth Collaborative
- Resurgence of young adults wanting CCD for families and Child. Lit. of Word
- Young adults:
 - Families of origin not interested in church teachings → “Back to Basics”
- Catholic Radio
- Growth of CCD – Lots of activities (plays/class masses/Saint parade)
- New preschool – Community Outreach Something’s Happening!
- Getting to know one another through socials and activities and renewals
- Change of Leadership
- Combining activities to resolve a conflict

- New teaching materials (technology, books, etc.)
- Collaboration with ministry/music style
- Scheduling of mass, ministries – getting along
- Social and fundraising activities
- Worship aides (Projection screens, allows participation)
- Outreach towards community
- Recognition of the importance of lay ministers
- Merger process of combining St. Catherine and St. James Parishes
- Evangelization week of spirit and joy
- Ongoing process of forming food pantry and outreach in cooperation with local churches and other organizations
- Involvement in the community, neighborhood, city, etc.
- Welcoming spirit, i.e. Baptism during mass
- Pre mass / socializing / greeting and welcoming
- Welcoming diversity, non-traditional folks
(come and talk with us vs. sorry you can't because you don't fit)
- Ecumenical opportunities – VBS
- Making strong efforts to invite people to get involved
- Matching parish council with new parishioners
- Mayor invited to speak at mass
- Faith must be priority and must be visible in leadership.
- Eliminating the need to try and please everyone.
- Creating a strong foundation on which to make changes.
- RCIA – Being responsive to marriage/relationship issues.
- Better understanding of “relationship” on many levels – taking us out of black/white thinking.
- Our Pope offering new life/new openness for grassroots input!
- Mission experiences and follow up! (Mystagogy!)
- Reach out to those who have left
- Ask for their help
- Go out into community
- Ask other churches to work together for common goal
 - Specific project
 - Not just fundraising
 - Support one another w/donations (clothes, etc.) outreach
- More parish life activities
- New program starting on evangelization

- Our committee is very excited and motivated
- We are focusing more on vocations
- Educate our seminarians to new evangelization
- More away from “Don’t do this yourself”. It’s more than pray, pray and obey. Relationships need to be based on “friends’ raising rather than ‘fund’ raising”.
- Reorganizing the use of funds – When Band-Aids don’t work. Take another look and re-prioritize.
- Family choices are moving away from standard models and this challenges status quo plans for teachers, students and activities and context.
- Interaction of priest and congregation during mass.
- Welcoming and hospitality to everyone.
- Combining youth groups from churches to form an area youth group.
- Emphasis on the New Evangelization, be not afraid – of the word
- Through vocation “crisis” – a better ownership of parish members – lay ministers, partnership of all the baptized
- Responding to Pope Francis’ call to go outside the church building (box) to be open to new methods, -- examples: Theology on Tap; drawing on the experience of other denominations.
- Bereavement committee
- Divorce recovery
- “Young Catholic Family Questions Class” on raising a Catholic family (before baptizing babies)
- Near death counseling
- Embracing technology
- Diocesan evangelization attempts
- Establishing relationships outside the church community
- Pastor that is open to change and will lead thru change
- Ownership and determination of Parish Council members to implement goals.
- New program and time for Jr. High Ministry.
- Empower the parish community to meet the needs and
know the people vs. exclusively by the church leadership
- Inclusive and respectful of all faiths
- Individualized thinking (me) to an open universal form of thinking (corporate/community)
 - Clustering of parishes and parish talents
 - Active recruiting of youth/young adults into parish ministries
 - New media sources available for public
 - Signs of hope

- Inviting young people to be ministers
- Some merged parishes not working together
- Hope
 - When programs combined have more participation
- Educational, poignant, challenging homilies to “Think outside the box”.
- Empowering people to take leadership on committees.
- Increasing outreach and ministry to Latino population.
- Life-giving music for our liturgies
- Outreach through social media
- Welcome to sacramental preparation at non-traditional ages
- Balance of needs of all age cohorts – both/and connect them in programs
- Involving children and youth in liturgical ministry
- Life giving/transforming
 - Meditation trail
 - All ages involved
 - Promotes prayer
- The PEP Program involved all ages and community
- Food pantry – beginning of involvement and outreach of community

Challenges to Life-giving and transformative change

- Financial
- Participation
- Personnel
- Collaboration
- Attitudes
- Faith
- No time for God

Signs of Burnout

- Parishioners not participating in the Mass /
Attending Religion classes then not taking children to Mass
- Not doing new things out of comfort zone
- Resistance to Change
- No youth for children’s liturgy

- No children attending mass
- Less attendance at mass
- Losing young adults – no youth pastors.
- Many pastors close to retirement – comfortable with status quo.
- Set mass times and same music.
- Limited volunteer pool.
- Lack of assuming responsibility for parish life
- Less parishioners working
- Poor homiletics/homily
- Lack of funds for maintenance of parish
- Unwillingness of leadership to change.
- Too much change in leadership pushes people away.
- Lack of volunteers and participation.
- People don't know why and don't ask why.
- Turf protection – even among volunteers.
- Lack of regular evaluating of priorities.
- Ignoring recommendations based upon research.
- CCD parents (and others) lack of participation at mass and parish
- Stuck in uninspiring ritual music
- Priorities are secular not religious – (sports-shopping-sleep) – and when do attend see only as obligation – Not receiving Christ to share with others!
- Difficulty in keeping young people interested and involved
- Closing of parishes
- Not being able to sing with the music leaders (little participation)
- Recalculate PEP Program
- Revise the GOF.
- Volunteers in ministry
- Lack of interest in church ministry (ies)
- Attendance
- Loss and absence of young people
- Grey hair
- Lack of participation in parish activities
- Don't accept change
- Strained finances
- Lack of communication
- Scarcity of new ideas
- "We've done it that way", "tried that before"

- Lack of desire to grow in discipleship
- You can't see the priorities – what's important?
- No activities for youth
- Lack of different types of liturgy
- Lack of volunteers
- Dwindling mass attendance
- Lack of cooperation among parish groups
- Clash between tradition and change; efforts to change at odds with leadership people
- An over reliance of the same group of people
- Inadequate in reaching out to absent parishioners and newcomers and young people.
- Fear at being too pushy talking about faith.
- Same people doing the tasks of the parish
- Narrow focus in evangelization
- Off-putting terms
- Not building relationships
- Closing/collaborating parishes
- Declining programs (CCD/Generations of Faith)
- “Too busy” or “not intended” to engage in parish life/faith education.
We've lowered the bar.
- Lack of volunteers (feeling – not worthy or not educated enough)
- Overworked volunteers
- Restrictions (certification requirements, paperwork, red tape)
- Communication
- Lack of attachment due to new clustered parishes
- Secular interests (technology, media) outweigh religious practices
- Not as welcoming or entertaining as the new “mega” church
- We're not promoting the good we're doing
- No improvements necessary – “attitude”
- Economy and demographics changing
- Average age of parishioners
- Always same people involved and burning out
- Resistance to change
- Resistance to changing mass schedule/style
- Resistance to re-identifying identity of parish (when we do things our way)
- Resistance to changing organizational chart, roles and role/identity of pastor
- Resistance to leading together – Different philosophies for catechesis, youth ministry, etc. among pastoral staff (between parishes)

- Resistance of moving from parish community → community of parishes
- Expectations of parish ministries: doing “it” all or doing “it” better
- Aversion to change: not doing anything: paralysis
- Failure to plan or vision
- Forgetting to engage families and meet them where they are, taking interest in their strengths and struggles.
- Respect and recognize other cultures, but remember we are a culture – “a catholic culture”. We need to teach and help others integrate into our culture.
- Remembering that the catholic church must remain true to its foundation without bending to individual expectations and priorities – Taking opportunities to teach the Catholicism.
- Young folks not invited, numbers way down
- Music
- Homilies
- Lack communication
- Attendance instead of participation in the life, church, and world
- Placing church laws above the needs of the people
- Inflexibility to meet the needs of the busy family life [through dialogue with church and families who have equal responsibility]
- Failure to learn and grow
- Lack of recognition of vocations
- Lack of opportunity for adult education
- Lack of teaching on universal call to holiness
- Lack of lay involvement
- Lack of recognition of parish community