

**September 24, 2022**

**Central Deanery**

## **Goal #1**

### **Reach out and engage all people:**

- ❖ Children's Liturgy
- ❖ Correspondence Literature (Catechism)
- ❖ Priests visit at the school
- ❖ Sacramental preparation in place. Could we centralize it, especially for a parish that needs help? Keep the current information in place.
- ❖ Engage/welcome new families and let them know what is available
- ❖ Reach out through community events; advertise through community newsletters and social media
- ❖ Hold Communion services. These are not as long, yet can offer Communion, for those nervous to be out for too long, or who can't be for other reasons
- ❖ Attentiveness to practical issues ie) washrooms
- ❖ To reach out and engage all people with the message of the Gospel
- ❖ To be a welcoming church that fosters community
- ❖ We need to go where they are
- ❖ Try: yard sale, reading program, seek them out and invite, open house with a bouncy castle
- ❖ What does success look like
- ❖ Ministries: bring up the gifts, ushering, ask people to help, restart ministries
- ❖ Choose new volunteers
- ❖ Nominate people/families for ministries
- ❖ Have a pastor/individual call people who have not come back
- ❖ Rules and laws need to be relaxed
- ❖ Educate people about the laws and rules in homilies

- ❖ Why are there rules and laws
- ❖ Parents aren't usually educated about rules either
- ❖ Let people know that the priest is never "too busy" to answer questions or meet with them
- ❖ Use bulletin for, "Did you know?" which will explain some aspect of the Catholic practice
- ❖ Get in touch with people; how do we reach out
- ❖ Married couples no longer – mentor couples; living together before provide stats; educate parishioners re: Sacrament of Matrimony
- ❖ Families need growth
- ❖ Help the needy and the poor
- ❖ Layman's terms for people to understand the Liturgy of God
- ❖ Educate parishioners on what goes on during Mass celebration
- ❖ Need to reignite the Sacraments so people can be involved more
- ❖ Involve parishioners in daily Mass
- ❖ Music to enhance the Mass celebration
- ❖ Have parishioners be more welcoming to new comer
- ❖ Youth Mass
- ❖ Social after Mass to attract both youth and broader community
- ❖ Activities to engage youth in Catholic culture
- ❖ Adjust Mass times to fit youth schedule
- ❖ One on one evangelization – reach the youth through the youth
- ❖ Ask people to become engaged in service activities
- ❖ Both young people and the elderly are also alone; bring them together
- ❖ Priorities:
  1. Youth activities and adjusted Mass to fit youth schedule
  2. Elderly and youth partnership
  3. Better Church web sites dedicated to youth

## Goal #2

### Inviting and Welcoming:

- ❖ Expand the number of people who bring up the gifts
- ❖ Welcoming new people at the door.
  - The CWL/Knights inviting new men/women to their organizations
- ❖ Social event after mass is meal/BBQ, coffee, donuts
- ❖ Make people welcome even at these events
  - i.e. the people who are off by themselves
- ❖ Community events like garage sales but do more than take their money.  
Give them info re: the church
- ❖ Church groups going out to public places (Legion of Mary) CWL, Knights meeting people and introducing themselves and establishing dialogue
- ❖ We need to be united in our message i.e. be proud of who we are. For all messages(beliefs) of the Catholic faith not just some that we accept.
- ❖ Groups/individuals need training in how to conduct one on one meetings
- ❖ More specific teach in homilies to strengthen our faith.
- ❖ Parishioners to become greeters specifically at small parishes – new
- ❖ Summer – BBQ, Bingo, Looney Auction
- ❖ Community Outreach instead of just parishioners
- ❖ Winter – coffee after celebration
  - Thanksgiving dinner
  - Christmas dinner
  - Family Day Dinner
- ❖ Parishioners reach out to friends and previous members (Reflection committee)
- ❖ Parish and community events – sacramental ???
- ❖ Greeters before and after mass
- ❖ Welcome new or visiting parishioners
  - Ask “are you visiting?”... “are you new?”
  - Pot Lucks – coffee Sundays
  - Seniors Lunches and Dinners for all
  - Leniency in laws “if couple could get married in back garden”
  - Babies in church

- ❖ Have the priest at the door welcoming people
- ❖ Coffee Sundays
- ❖ People should also be involved in welcoming people
- ❖ Provide places (churches) that are open (set times that can be relished upon)
  - too often doors are locked (concerns about security)
- ❖ Offer people the opportunity to participate in various types of liturgy and eucharistic adoration
- ❖ Use social media to be inviting to the broader community
- ❖ “it is not a numbers game” spirituality is about growth
- ❖ Make sure we have contact information for summer parishioners so that they know they are appreciated and invited
- ❖ Potlucks to share food and build community – people get the chance to get to know each other (invite neighbor and friends to mass and lunch)
- ❖ Open house
  - Enticing others to events
  - Food, activities for families: bouncy castles, volunteer sign ups
  - Coffee Sunday
- ❖ Fall fair, festivals – church should participate (this is where families are)
- ❖ School as avenue to invite
  - Work with school – volunteer connections
    - Food bank
- ❖ Advertising externally
- ❖ Foster external events
- ❖ Not forget existing parishioners who have not returned after covid
- ❖ Book study at the library – where people are
- ❖ Priests in schools
  - Could be on priests or schools schedule to do – not sure
  - Diocese should support this.
- ❖ Structure different ministries within parish
  - Pastor/leader should ask people, people call also self-nominate
  - Training
- ❖ Summer attendees
  - Keeping in contact

- Christmas card
- Get them involved
- Involve them in leadership
- Social

## Goal #3

### To offer well prepared liturgies that promote prayer and participation:

- ❖ Ecumenical service at advent and lent. All faiths invited.
- ❖ Holding stations of the cross
- ❖ Training for ministries
- ❖ Involving more people in the ministries. i.e. collection
- ❖ Special celebrations make them more than traditional, i.e. Good Friday, May of the Cross, i.e. carry the cross in from outside.
- ❖ Holy Thursday washing of feet on the alter
- ❖ Ceremony of installation for ministries, i.e. reading and Eucharist ministers
- ❖ Blessing of animals (promotes participation)
- ❖ Liturgy preparation group – prepare for the liturgy celebration
- ❖ Make popular priests more accessible to people
- ❖ Education – explain mass
  - Liturgical Catholicism
  - Explain the colours of the church (green, red, violet, white)
- ❖ Level of ??? forum
  - Make it simple so people can understand it
  - Pre-prepare the homilies
  - Input for priest to know how he is preaching
- ❖ Simplify the liturgy
  - Educate parishioners about the liturgy
  - Repeat homilies
- ❖ Liturgy for children
- ❖ Content and time frame of homily
- ❖ They want to know who the priest is!
- ❖ Educate using homilies
- ❖ Music at mass – encourage different types
- ❖ Music ministry that aligns with the disposition of parish groups
- ❖ Children’s liturgy
- ❖ Including families in the mass
- ❖ Ecumenical service
- ❖ Training lay people and educating about theology

- Letting them speak/preach
- ❖ Deacons to preach
- ❖ Providing people of the parish agency to be heard
- ❖ Liturgical committee
- ❖ Preparation of liturgical ministries – modern day major and minor orders
- ❖ Renewed liturgies
- ❖ Other forms of liturgy
  - Charismatic
  - For seniors – shorter
- ❖ Priests need to renew their spirituality: you can't provide what you don't have; and this will lead to better homilies, etc...
- ❖ We want to give parishioners the best music we can
- ❖ Send parishioners for training in music ministry
- ❖ Music is a form of worship and we need to have the participation of the parishioners
- ❖ Children's choirs are powerful because they bring their families to church
- ❖ A teaching means
- ❖ A booklet that explains the gestures in the mass – a cartoon version of the GIRM.
- ❖ Good homilies
- ❖ A good centered mass – eliminate distractions.

## Goal #4

### To be a Church engaged in ministry and mission:

- ❖ Annual missions parish by parish accompanied by a social event – parishes could team up to assist each other.
- ❖ Deaneries to work collaboratively together on missions
- ❖ Have the Bishop lead diocesan missions
- ❖ Raise the Bishops profile so that he can be known and loved by the diocese – the diocese is a Catholic family.
- ❖ Participate in local food banks
- ❖ Raise awareness of the need for clarity by individuals – they need to give more time and talent
- ❖ More **lay** leadership in serving families in need.
- ❖ Encourage retirees to engage in service work and leadership
- ❖ Link with schools to encourage students get there 40 hours of service by helping others through the Church
- ❖ Practical help to those that are in need that is doable
- ❖ Organize mission trips to their countries, WYD, etc...
- ❖ Group to identify the needs of the parish
  - Advisory group
- ❖ Assess the roles of parishioners and opportunities (lector, extra ordinary ministries of the eucharist)
  - Educational/formation for parishioners
  - Guidelines to assist parishioners about attending church, mass
- ❖ Address immediate needs of the community (food bank, sick)
- ❖ How to make what the church is doing more visible?
- ❖ Special Sundays, special announcements, speakers
- ❖ Pastoral care
  - Be direct with lay people about help with ministries
  - “I need people to visit Mrs. Smith”
- ❖ Promoting Lay ministry:
  - Create a list of needed ministries – community ministry
  - Prison ministry of Lay people
  - Parish councils created



- More prep for social justice
- Clarifying what special collections are for
- Pastoral care is also practical assistance
- Drive elderly to Walmart, bank, etc.
- Breakdown silence in silos
- ❖ Education and promoting knowledge of the relationship
  - Peterborough and Northern Dioceses
- ❖ Encourage people to get involved in orgs like development and peace, council of Canadians, campaign life coalition, R.E.A.L. Women
- ❖ Support local initiatives that support the needs of the poor, soup kitchens
- ❖ Host world day of prayers, Christmas wish list for seniors, families and individuals...
- ❖ Support seminarians with letters, cards and monetary gifts
- ❖ Support “priests for life”
- ❖ Support nursing homes in the effort to bring people to mass within the home.
- ❖ Lay ministry and leadership training and accompaniment
  - Encourage them
    - Grateful
    - Thank them
  - Sustain it
    - Encourage joyful people serving with a spirit of joy
    - Positive feedback and recognition
      - Dinner for L ministers, Christmas party
    - “ride along” invite newer ministers to assist
      - Visit hospital together
- ❖ Social justice aspect
  - People care about social justice
- ❖ Ministry to students (any social)
  - Part of parishes responsibilities
- ❖ Parish pastoral Council
- ❖ Acting as Jesus – pastoral care
  - Imitating
  - Eliminating blocks
- ❖ Pastoral Car of the sick
  - newer ministers to assist - visit hospital together

- ❖ Screening
  - Streamline it
  - Educating on
- ❖ Volunteer process can be difficult...long

## Goal #5

### Engage in responsible stewardship of God's gifts for present and future:

- ❖ Aging priests and the need for new priests
- ❖ Need ministry that focuses on getting young men into the priesthood. And if we have one we need to hear more about it.
- ❖ Down the load on priest
- ❖ Up communication of programs I/P and what needs are being met and what are not and therefore where can the lay people help.
- ❖ We need a property committee that addresses the capital and operational needs of the parish. Become proactive as opposed to reactive
- ❖ Up the promotion of people to leave more to the parish in their wills
- ❖ Priests come from families therefore we need to encourage families, marriage. These families need support.
- ❖ Continuity of pastoral parish
  - Continue the previous pastors leading
- ❖ Pastoral Teams – parishioners helping the pastor
  - Might need to have paid positions
  - Differs by parishes (big, small)
- ❖ Building maintenance - renovations, heat, AC
  - Efficiency
- ❖ Advertising the church to new comers, new housing development within the parish
- ❖ Greater transparency so that the people know where there is the greatest need and can adjust their giving
- ❖ Encourage people to remember the church in their wills
- ❖ Notion of tithing – encourage 10%?
- ❖ Electronic giving so that people can give when they are not there
- ❖ People give when they recognize the value of their faith
- ❖ To renew and foster Catholic culture by theatre group, music, art, etc. ...these need to be funded. “we might need to recognize that we need to become small and vibrant not large and sluggish”
- ❖ Foster vocations

- ❖ ??? reporting to parish as to financial health: offertory BK balances and future capital Expenses
- ❖ Including explanation and totals of spec collections
- ❖ Finance council to talk about financial stability as a special
- ❖ Lay people take bulletins to sick – shut ins
- ❖ Forum of parishioners to address anything in parish
  - Invite complaints
- ❖ Even this process, let people know what we are doing.
- ❖ AGM meeting for all parishioners about all aspects of parish (ministries, # of baptisms, # of funerals)
- ❖ Get other parishes involved
- ❖ Vocations
  - Concentration on vocations
    - Campus ministry
    - More assistant
    - Volunteer
  - Recruitment
  - Seniors commitment
- ❖ Parish-level, vocation committees
  - In person – meet people
  - Not just meeting, reach out to parishioners
  - Prayer pamphlets, booklets, campaign for priests
  - More aware of vocations within the diocese
- ❖ Educate about tithing – donations
  - Frame about the good that the church does, what does this money support
  - Bequests
    - Remember...in your will
- ❖ Consolidation (closure) of parishes
  - In
  - Consolidated parish can better serve those who are around
    - Church boss
- ❖ Committees
  - Involve

## Goal #6

### Church that nurtures reconciliation, healing and mercy:

- ❖ Acknowledge and support with prayer and action people who are hurting
- ❖ Educate on the church's foundational doctrine so people who feel they've been hurt can be reconciled.
- ❖ Promote the sacrament of reconciliation
- ❖ Become better listeners and compassionate
- ❖ Offer retreat days
- ❖ Educate people on the consequences of their sinful actions.
- ❖ Clergy should be welcoming and kind especially to those who have fallen away
- ❖ To be authentic to our faith and moral teaching
- ❖ Catholic councilors who provide sound advice to those who are suffering
- ❖ Public devotions of our faith so as to attract back to the faith
- ❖ Pastoral support for those who are hurt
- ❖ Offer to assist groups in need in the future and present in help with clean water projects, etc.
- ❖ Listening and apologies (sacramental or non-sacramental)
- ❖ Acknowledging the hurt that people are feeling and recognizing
- ❖ Forum for people to express their anger
- ❖ After apology/acknowledging the person, what is the next step? What can I do to help?
- ❖ "I share your anger"
- ❖ Acknowledging the different First Nations within our boundaries
- ❖ Make contact and develop relationships with the local First Nations (the chiefs)
- ❖ Ministering to families who are in need before a decision is made (e.g. Divorce, blended families, sexual abuse)
- ❖ Open communication by reaching out to other communities
- ❖ Gathering information about the needs of communities and posting the info at the Diocese website and home parishes, donate (needs of the poor, indigenous community needs)
- ❖ Getting to know how other denominational parishes ho about their ministries

- Exchange ideas ministerial associations
- ❖ Reaching out to the nursing homes
- ❖ Education of ??? in regards to special needs parishioners, by being understanding and patient.
- ❖ How to identify those who are hurting
  - Who are they?
  - Misunderstandings?
  - Other
- ❖ Use what we do know
- ❖ Build trust
- ❖ Listen
- ❖ Work with professional services. Encourage professional involvement
- ❖ Training lay people for psychological and indigenous needs.
- ❖ ??? in the diocese? – who they are. Lay and priests should know.
  - Knowledge of the process for counselling
- ❖ Ongoing support for those who are sidelined
- ❖ Don't be in a silo
  - Men and women
  - Interactions, collaboration, working together between men and women – groups, professionally, in family
    - One group should not do all the work.