

Ave Maria Pastoral Planning Proposal Outline

Community

Where we are:

We recognize with gratitude that God has blessed our pastorate with these gifts and resources for building Christian community in our pastorate.

Gifts and Resources

1. Engaged parish members (many volunteers and people excited to participate in events).
2. Strong connections within the pastorate community and families. People are dedicated to the parishes and want the pastorate model to work. The priests work well as a team and connect with the parishioners.
3. Pastorate-wide events have had a great attendance.
4. Many opportunities for youth to grow in faith with others (youth group, retreats, etc.).
5. Built-in community with the school growing and well-supported. The school provides many volunteer opportunities.

Where We Want to Go

We recognize these opportunities to intentionally invest in these gifts in pursuit of a greater community.

1. Greater exposure to service groups like Knights of Columbus, Altar Society, Catholic Daughters, etc. Encourage them to reach out to the entire pastorate.
2. Improve technology for increased communication (technology, livestream capabilities, social media, accommodations for our Spanish-speaking community).
3. Encouragement and support for healthy family life.
4. A designated welcome committee.
5. Build a stronger connection throughout the pastorate with more pastorate-wide events and higher understanding of the needs of the parishes.

As we discussed opportunities to develop our habits of Christian community, the following themes emerged in our conversations and consultations:

1. Pastorate level events are a goal.
2. Welcome new Parishioners: especially Parishioners from Pastorate that no longer have a Sunday Mass.
3. Create an atmosphere where families can network together and support one another to live out the faith.
4. Spread the workload out for having community events. Twenty percent of Parishioners do 80% or the work.

These are the specific aspects/elements of Christian community efforts that we would like to develop/enhance in the future:

1. Connection of Pastorates.
2. Technology to keep or enhance communications
3. Education of parishioners in the areas of faith-health and services available

Our Roadmap for Getting There

From the previous list, in the next 12 months, these are the 2-4 priorities we will focus on to enhance our experience of Christian community:

1. Build strong connections throughout the pastorate with more pastorate wide events and higher understanding of the needs of the parishioners. Examples: Fish Fries and Dinners, Parties, Bingo, Celebration to coincide with the Assumption of Mary, hosting youth events at all parishes in the pastorate. All of this is designed to bring parishioners together. Would need to designate committee leaders.
2. Technology for communication-Flocknotes, livestream, helping those not knowledgeable to get and stay connected. Apps for Spanish speaking people. Invite those listening to the Mass on the radio that are unable to attend Mass to contact their parish to let them know so they can be scheduled for homebound visits.
3. Invite presenters from various groups in the parish to speak on ways to be involved in parish life ways they can help at Mass, Funerals, special events, etc. and make sure, they have training in those areas.

For each of these priorities, here are the steps we have brainstormed to accomplish them and groups or individuals we have identified who will take lead and create a timeline (who will do what by when)

1. Build strong connections throughout the pastorate with more pastorate wide events and higher understanding of the needs of the parishioners. Examples: Fish Fries and Dinners, Parties, Bingo, Celebration to coincide with the Assumption of Mary, hosting youth events at all parishes in the pastorate. All of this is designed to bring parishioners together. Would need to designate committee leaders.
 - a. Designate committee leaders to communicate events.
 - b. Utilize bulletin for communication.
 - c. Develop adequate facility to manage Pastorate wide events.
 - d. Start a newsletter that will give a more detailed description on events and services.
2. Technology for communication-Flocknotes, livestream, helping those not knowledgeable to get and stay connected. Apps for Spanish speaking people. Invite those listening to the Mass on the radio that are unable to attend Mass to contact their parish to let them know so they can be scheduled for homebound visits.
 - a. Help those that may not be connected to Flocknotes, email, etc. Ask for names of people that may need help and those that are willing/able to help.
 - b. Coordinator to take Communion to those that are homebound and listen to Mass on the radio.
 - c. Look into apps for non-English speaking parishioners.
 - d. Hispanic population, need to coordinate outreach and ask parishioners who speak other languages to break the language barrier.
3. Invite presenters from various groups in the parish to speak on ways to be involved in parish life ways they can help at Mass, Funerals, special events, etc. and make sure they have training in those areas
 - a. Leaders of each group to present what their groups do, for example, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters, Quilters, Rosary Makers, Funeral Groups, Special Events. Also have documentation and notes available on-line or in a binder so anyone can see what is expected or how something is done at each location.
 - b. Train people, as liturgical ministers, how equipment is run in the kitchens, etc.
 - c. Cross-train people at all pastorate facilities.
 - d. Utilize bulletin for communication.

How We Will Know We are Succeeding

These are quantitative and qualitative measures we will track to see if our efforts are succeeding in enhancing our habits of Christian Community:

1. If Hispanics begin to come to Mass.
2. If various organizations numbers increase after a year
3. If Pastorate Level Events are well attended
4. Conduct a survey to see if the community needs are being met.