

# **Ave Maria Pastoral Planning Proposal Outline**

## **Discipleship and Evangelization**

### **Where we are:**

These are the specific aspects/elements of our current experience of Discipleship and Evangelization that have been especially fruitful:

1. Smaller Study Groups (i.e., Men's, Women's, Youth Groups), TMIY (This Man Is You) Bible/Book Studies and support groups, OCIA, Meaningful study topics for spiritual growth.
2. Outreach: Prison Ministry, Homebound, grief programs, memorial masses, weddings, Catholic Faith, and Fellowship-young adult ministry.
3. Religious Education-weekly classes, Catechesis of the good shepherd, Family faith formation-parents instructing kids.
4. Immaculate Conception School-successful and growing
5. Family groups - Fall Dinners, Funerals

We recognize with gratitude that God has blessed our pastorate with the gifts and resources to help people encounter Christ, come to love him, choose to follow him, and be empowered to help others do the same:

1. Financial resources to purchase educational material and host events
2. Technology in churches for large group communication
3. Several young families are searching to belong to something.
4. Parishioners willing to make efforts to evangelize. Number of small groups men's group, quilters, rosary makers, etc.
5. Partnerships with other groups in the Pastorate and the public. (i.e., Knights of Columbus/Haven Center).
6. There are numerous places throughout the pastorate to meet

### **Where We Want to Go**

We recognize these opportunities to intentionally invest in and cultivate those gifts:

1. Pastorate Wide Events
2. Youth and Adult Formation-more and better, etc. Restart Faith Formation with food/meals: "Faith & Real Life, "Truth on Tap." Review Value of starting Faith formation with providing meals again. Create a strong pastorate youth group with events or service every month in communities (large and small)
4. Keep inviting people to participate; asking Catholics not attending mass to return, Engage the Roster Evangelization of the 99.
5. Training for the laity on the process of evangelization.

As we discussed opportunities to elevate our experience of Discipleship and Evangelization efforts more intentional, consistent, and fruitful, the following themes emerged in our conversations and consultations:

To strengthen families.

These are the specific aspects/elements of our discipleship and evangelization efforts that we would like to develop/enhance in the future:

Offer programs and events that offer growth and equip individuals and families in the richness of our Catholic Faith.

### **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 discipleship and evangelization efforts:

1. Create opportunities and events to help parishioners gain a deeper understanding of their God given gifts and how to use those gifts to strengthen families, marriages and those not currently connected to the Church.
2. Introduce educational opportunities that will give parishioners a greater understanding for the richness of our Catholic Faith; with a special emphasis on the Mass and the Holy Eucharist.
3. Offer outreach opportunities for parishioners to journey with and build relationships with both the church and non-church. And supply the tools needed for these parishioners to be better equipped in having difficult conversations.
4. Develop opportunities for non-members of our Parishes to interact with our parishioners on a social and intellectual level to spread the gospel

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. Create opportunities and events to help parishioners gain a deeper understanding of their God given gifts and how to use those gifts to strengthen families, marriages and those not currently connected to the Church.
  - a. Develop more small groups to study these educational series in each Pastorate church.
  - b. Called & Gifted, Spiritual Gifts Inventory by Sherry Weddell
  - c. Clifton Strengths Finder – Ignatius Spirituality
  - d. Theology of the Body; Adult, Teens & Middleschool
2. Introduce educational opportunities that will give parishioners a greater understanding for the richness of our Catholic Faith; with a special emphasis on the Mass and the Holy Eucharist.
  - a. Establish Adoration in each church for at least one hour per week.
  - b. A Biblical Walk through the Mass by Dr. Edward Sri
  - c. The Bible Timeline by Jeff Cavins
  - d. National Eucharistic Revival Small groups
  - e. Catholics in Exile
3. Offer outreach opportunities for parishioners to journey with and build relationships with both the church and non-church. And supply the tools needed for these parishioners to be better equipped in having difficult conversations.
  - a. The 99 Masterclass by Ascension Press
  - b. Introduce Communio in Watertown churches.
  - c. The Art of Accompaniment by the Catholic Apostolate Center
  - d. Revive Parishes – Called, Equipped and Sent
4. Develop opportunities for non-members of our Parishes to interact with our parishioners on a social and intellectual level to spread the gospel.
  - a. Restart Truth on Tap in Watertown. Invite all Pastorate.
  - b. Restart Faith in Real Life in Watertown. Invite all Pastorate.

### **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 discipleship and evangelization efforts:

1. Maintain Mass attendance through the “closing” of the two Parishes weekend Mass. Bring the members of those two Parishes into the remaining Parishes. **MOVE TO WORSHIP?**
2. Increase in the hours of Adoration and increase in number of places Adoration is held.
3. Increase the number of educational offerings and events for both our youth and adults.
4. Increase parent involvement in our youth programs.
5. Increase our number of trained Catechesis of the Good Shepherd teachers and offer this way of learning to more of our students.
6. Reestablish programs that allow parishioners an opportunity to share their personal testimonies.

7. Reestablish a young adult group; especially for our college-age students.
8. Increase our number of marriage prep couples.
9. Establish more programs to support our married couples at all stages.
10. Increase our support for couples that have a new child.
11. Increase pastorate wide events like family camps, family festivals, mission opportunities, neighborhood block parties, etc.
12. Increase the number of homebound ministers to serve those in our pastorate that can't get out or are less fortunate.
13. Increase the number of students attending vocation camps.