

Ave Maria Pastoral Planning Proposal Outline

Service

Where we are:

These are the specific aspects/elements of our current experience Christian service that we especially value and are grateful for:

A. Service Organizations

- Active Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters, and Religious Education Program
- Quilters and Rosary Makers– both Watertown Parishes are involved.
- ICAP (Inter-Lakes Community Action Program) – Clark provides drivers; also has offices in Watertown.

B. Youth Opportunities to Serve the Community

- Search
- Mission Trips
- Pastorate youth group caroling and bringing cards to nursing home.
- Holy Name of Jesus sponsors Boy Scout Troop 209.
- Youth group service projects

C. Resources/Financial Material for Those in Need.

- In the small parishes parishioners are always willing to help with whatever needs done.
- Meals, Fish Fries, donate proceeds to food pantry.
- Angel Trees, food pantry, donations, baby shower at Christmas.
- Helping those who come to the church office asking for assistance; no one is turned away.
- Collaborating with the Salvation Army to meet the needs of the people.
- Benefits for those who have had fires or medical/family emergencies.

D. Services for Spiritual, Mental and Physical Health

Provide care for the homebound.

- Parish Nurse is available to both Watertown parishes.
- Grief Programs
- All Souls Memorial Mass
- Eucharistic Ministers visit at the hospital and serving shut-ins-both, Watertown Parishes are involved.
- The Lourdes Center offers counseling twice a month-available to entire pastorate.
- St. Vincent DePaul Society

E. Facility Usage to Serve the Community

- Host AA and CODA meetings, NAMI meetings – both Watertown parishes
- Help with meals on wheels – both Watertown parishes

We recognize with gratitude that God has blessed our pastorate with these gifts and resources for extending Christian service to our neighbors:

1. We have a volunteer spirit. All parishes are open to doing whatever is asked of them.
2. Holy Name of Jesus shares a parking lot with Prairie Lakes Hospital.
3. Ability to deliver sacraments to the homebound.
4. Gift of living in a small area to make an impact.
5. One-Roof program-cooperation between other denominations to support those in need.
6. CAST Pastorate Youth Group-becoming active in the community, i.e., caroling at Jenkins.

Where We Want to Go

We recognize these opportunities to intentionally invest in service of our neighbors:

A. External Community Building Activities

- Pastorate wide involvement with current programs.
- Youth mission trips and camps.
- We would like to see more service projects in religious education programs.
- Mission projects for third world countries.
- Classes on how to parent, how to help families. (For example: seminars on how to teach/support families).
- Dave Ramsey classes on finances,
- Coordinating sporting events, poker runs, bike rides, city dances, church league sports.
- Christian music fest, do we want to sponsor a Thursday Night Live, Block Party, Corn Festival, etc.
- Married couples more involved in the sacraments (training, welcoming) especially leading baptism and marriage prep classes, natural family planning, welcoming committees, etc.

B. Communication of Service Opportunities in the pastorate

- Communicate services in parishes from the pulpit occasionally before Masses?
- Create more awareness of options that are available for service.
- If we are overworked now as a Church, can we get back to the basics and let go of the non-essential things?
- Develop pastorate wide list of opportunities to volunteer/communicate need for liturgical ministers.

C. Personnel to coordinate Pastorate wide service opportunities

- Create leadership to organize and solicit liturgical ministers/choir members.
- Have one person who can oversee all services.
- Part-time pastorate service and activities coordinator.
- Marketing and Communications Director to oversee bulletin, website, social media, events, etc.
- More youth service projects.
- Pastorate wide service projects.
- A section of the pastorate bulletin dedicated to service. I.E listing where and when we need help. Many parishioners want to do something but do not know what/where, etc.
- Focus on families-use older couple mentors to guide young families.
- Hot button topics: Defense for Life Fund (2024 Election) & Breaking the Chains of Pornography (Bishop's Bulletin)

D. NEWMAN CENTER-SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- Explore possibility of a Newman Center at LATC
- Pizza with a Priest-have youth invite a friend.

INCORPORATE FOCUS WHERE ABLE-THIS IS A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL MODEL

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

1. Involve priests and religious (include retired) in social settings with community.
2. Youth continuing to practice their Catholic faith beyond high school.
3. Leadership camps, mission trips, Newman Centers.
4. Need to address the general decay of the family unit; abortion, pornography, lack of parenting skills.
5. No need to re-invent the wheel-identify and evaluate existing community services. i.e., PACH program.

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

1. Create a position (part-time) for the pastorate to focus on service. (Service and Activities coordinator).
2. Encourage all members of our pastorate to get involved in service, including youth.
3. Develop a closer connection between our pastorate and Lake Area Technical College and Mount Marty University.
4. Establish programs and services that focus on strengthening marriage, families, etc.
5. Encourage more mission trips, leadership camps, etc.

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 service:

1. Create a position or center for the pastorate, to focus on the many service opportunities that are currently available.
2. Encourage all members of our pastorate to get involved by listing the services opportunities/needs in our bulletin.
3. Develop a closer connection between our pastorate and the LATC & Mount Marty communities.
4. Establish programs (in conjunction with the discipleship goals) that focus on strengthening marriage and families.

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

1. Create a position or center for the Pastorate, to focus on the many service opportunities that are currently available.
 - a. Collaborate with current volunteer organizer in the school to determine if one person can be hired to fill the position for the school and Pastorate.
 - b. Determine if we can financially afford them and where they would be located.
 - c. Pastor's team would do the interviewing and hiring.
2. Encourage all members of our Pastorate to get involved by listing the services opportunities/needs in our Bulletin.
 - a. Create one bulletin and one web site for the Pastorate.
 - b. Pastor and receptionist from IC & HN will be responsible for the bulletin and keeping web site up to date.
 - c. Negotiate contract with LPI on the bulletin to include more bulletins for the Pastorate Parishes.
 - d. Use the new Newsletter to describe the services in more detail.
3. Develop a closer connection between our Pastorate and the LATC & Mount Marty communities.
 - a. Get Catholic fellowship/faith community started meeting at Jo Vitek's house under the guidance of the Director of D&E.
 - b. Connect with regional director of Focus missionaries to see what can be done. Start bible studies with students.
 - c. Identify locations where we can have bible studies and events for college students. Locations could include IC, HN, college campus, Knights hall etc.
 - d. Incorporate the FOCUS program wherever we are able.
4. Establish programs (in conjunction with the Discipleship goals) that focus on strengthening marriage and families.
 - a. See D & E Communio section for detail – collaborative goal with D & E.
 - b. Have a Pastorate level family camp at Broom Tree retreat center in August and invite those families to participate in Communio.

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 service:

1. Increase in volunteer participation.
2. We have one Bulletin and one web site for the Pastorate by July 2024.
3. When we get some small bible study groups started.
4. When we start Communio.

