

Ave Maria Pastoral Planning Proposal Outline

Worship

Where we are:

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

1. We are grateful for the opportunity to receive Communion on a daily and weekly basis.
2. Smaller parishes have a richer sense of community.
3. Adoration available at Immaculate Conception on Wednesday, Holy Rosary on Sunday, Adoration in Bryant & Henry ½ hour before daily mass.
4. Convenient Confession time; weekend and daily Masses with multiple locations.
5. Good Relationship with Priests; Priests are also available to parishioners.

We recognize with gratitude that God has blessed our pastorate with the gifts and resources for our worship:

1. Financial strength and resources; we recognize parishioners who feel and maintain a personal and fiscal responsibility to their parishes.
2. Beautiful facilities and churches that are accessible.
3. Good Priests
4. Convenient Mass options-times and locations.
5. Social-Parish breakfasts, dinners, bible studies, etc.

Where We Want to Go

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

1. HOSPITALITY:
 - Welcome new people (including non-English speaking, i.e., Hispanics) to Mass.
 - Increase community in parishes, especially larger churches.
 - More outreach to the homebound, and sick and emergency situations.
2. More teaching homilies about Sacraments and the meaning of the Mass.
3. Sacrament of the Eucharist-more adoration/holy hours, etc. Place emphasis on a stronger belief in the Eucharist. Increase the number of servers at Mass and utilize kneelers.
4. Encourage Mass attendance to all Confirmed Catholics, especially after Marriage, Baptism, Confirmation, Divorce, etc.
5. Training of Liturgical Ministers and more development around music i.e. additional choirs, music selection

As we discussed opportunities to elevate our experience of worship, the following themes emerged in our conversations and consultations:

1. Make Mass as available/convenient as possible.
2. Engage the young kids to understand their faith better.
3. Create small "churches" within the larger church without forming Cliques.
4. Increase belief in the Eucharist.

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

1. Focus on understanding the Mass and sacraments.
2. How do we support the family unit to strengthen the foundation of our society?
3. Develop programs/methods of training Liturgical ministers, Mass servers and our Music.
4. Programs to bring the Real Presence in the Eucharist to life.
5. Social and special events to bring Priests together with parishioners.
6. More awareness of our openness to hospitality to new members, non-English speaking, and homebound, 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 worship:

1. Encourage Mass attendance to all Confirmed Catholics, especially after Marriage, Baptism, Confirmation, Divorce.
2. More teaching at Mass about sacraments and the meaning of the Mass plus Emphasis on stronger belief in the Eucharist and reverence in receiving the Eucharist. Offer more opportunities for Adoration.
3. Train Liturgical ministers and more development around music plus increase the number of servers at Mass.

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. Encourage Mass attendance to all Confirmed Catholics, especially after Marriage, Baptism, Confirmation, or Divorce
 - a. How do we increase healthy family life - #1 Stat to influence Mass attendance is a healthy family.
 - b. Communio - implement this program.
 - c. Work with Discipleship and Evangelization for programs to promote family life.
 - d. Collaborate with Community to develop better connections with the families after Mass.
 - e. Use Diocesan program on how to survive divorce.

2. More teaching during Mass about the sacraments and the meaning of the Mass plus emphasis on stronger belief in the Eucharist. Offer more opportunities for adoration.
 - a. Have a series of homilies explaining the Mass (4-6 homilies).
 - b. Have one teaching Mass at each Parish each year-minimum.
 - c. Work with Discipleship & Evangelization and Community to have teaching opportunities after Mass.
3. Train liturgical ministers and more development around music and increase the number of servers at Masses.
 - a. Find a music coordinator for the Pastorate.
 - b. Incorporate the strength of the current volunteers.
 - c. Build a team to use as a base to train others throughout the pastorate

How We Will Know We are Succeeding

These are quantitative and qualitative measures we will track see if our efforts are succeeding in elevating our experience of worship:

1. Have we implemented Communio or similar programs?
2. Have we completed teaching Masses on the Mass & Sacraments?
3. Do we have more Adoration times?
4. Do we have a Music coordinator and team to train liturgical ministers and servers?
5. Mass attendance is not decreasing.