

IMPLEMENTATION COMMISSION REPORT 2005-06

GROWTH IN HOLINESS ✧ STRENGTHEN PARISHES ✧ FOSTER VOCATIONS ✧ STRENGTHEN EDUCATION ✧ JUSTICE & CHARITY ✧ STEWARDSHIP

Introduction

“...Access to the Eucharist in its fullness for all the faithful.”

This Vision to be a Eucharistic Church, supported by the six archdiocesan pastoral priorities, has been and continues to be the focus of all our archdiocesan planning.

On April 1, 2006 representatives of all the parishes/clusters and districts throughout the archdiocese gathered with you, the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council and us to share their accomplishments and concerns for fulfilling this vision.

What We Heard

1. Collaboration works!

The accomplishments enumerated were many and varied and largely due to quality inter-parish partnerships. “Collaboration” has become a natural and valued option as parishes strive to be wise stewards of temporal and human resources, especially those who share the ministry of a pastor.

“Collaboration is in the drinking water.”

Parishes and clusters told us they recognize the power of working together to strengthen Catholic education in schools, catechetical programs and adult formation opportunities. More and more they report their confidence in the talented and trained lay ministers who lead them in their efforts to embody Christ in our world today.

2. There is a sense of impending loss of Sunday Eucharist and concern for pastors.

- Three interrelated concerns were echoed district by district:
- ✧ The continued downward trend in Sunday Mass attendance in 13 of 16 districts
 - ✧ The potential for loss of regular Sunday Eucharist due to shortage of clergy
 - ✧ Over-burdening our already stretched and aging pastors.

Parishioners in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee cannot imagine themselves without priests as sacramental ministers, leaders of their faith communities, spiritual guides and friends.

“ Don’t let us become a people starved for the Eucharist.”

Linked to this they recognize the stress on their priests, especially those who serve in multiple parishes or parish and other ministries. The faithful want their pastors to live balanced lives where body and soul are nurtured and supported. They also encourage pastors to find ways to use the expertise of the members in meaningful ways.

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3. From Ripon to Racine, Sharon to Sheboygan, Lake Geneva to Elkhart Lake active, involved parishioners want to help pastors with the areas of the apostolate that are open to them. Recognizing their need for formation and training they continue to ask for action on your part, Archbishop, and on our central office staff to provide regional training for lay ministries.

“ Bring us leadership training opportunities! Please. ”

“ Bilingual, por favor. ”

4. Help us deepen our knowledge of Catholic Social Teaching so that we can do our part of the mission of justice and charity.

“ We don’t know what ‘advocacy’ involves. ”

About the Directives

These directives are our recommendations to you, Archbishop. There are three sets:

1. General Directives for all Districts
2. District Directives with specific action by the district, and
3. Special Recommendation to Archdiocesan Leadership

We seek your approval of these recommendations and urge you to call for their study and action by all the faithful at the leadership Conference October 21, 2006.

General Directives

We have selected three areas for work by all clusters/districts in the coming year. These directives place special emphasis on the common concerns and priorities:

- ✧ Growth in holiness, increasing Mass attendance
- ✧ Strengthening Catholic Education and
- ✧ Our mission of justice and charity.

Given the interconnection of all our priorities, the other three priorities will also benefit through this work:

- ✧ Strengthen parishes
- ✧ Foster a sense of Vocation and
- ✧ Stewardship.

Particular Directives to Districts/Clusters are included in each district section.

A Special Recommendation to Archdiocesan Leadership

We add our voices to those of the faithful urging Archdiocesan Leadership to develop a plan in consultation with district leadership, to offer a variety of lay ministry trainings at locations within the archdiocese at some distance from Milwaukee, during the 2007-08 fiscal year.

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General Directives, 2006–07 for all Districts

John 6: 48-51

I am the bread of life. ...I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

We recommend three particular areas for action this year in all parishes.

1. Grow in Holiness: Improving Sunday Mass Attendance

In this report we include Mass Attendance data comparing the number of attendees to the number of registered members. Graphs illustrate mass attendance trends for the past six years. Three districts, 9, 13 and 14 are beginning to show positive trends in attendance. ***We challenge every parish, cluster and district to explore ways to increase attendance of registered members by 20% this year.***

2. Strengthening Catholic School Education

We ask each parish to tell us what Catholic school(s) they support and how.

3. Upholding Our Mission of Charity and Justice

We urge each district or cluster to discern an area(s) to study, educate the faithful and work as advocates for justice and charity. Some timely topics and resources we recommend are:

Wisconsin Catholic Conference: Election 2006

[Faithful Citizenship - Elections 2006](#)

National Committee for a Human Life Amendment

[National Committee for Human Life Amendment](#)

Catholic Relief Services

[Giving Hope to a World of Need](#)

Justice for Immigrants

[Justice for Immigrants](#)

Or, contact:

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District: 2
 Location by County: Racine County east of I-94
 Dean: Very Rev. Ronald O. Crewe
 APC Member: TBA

Cluster	Parishes	Registered Members	Average Mass attendance (% of reg.)	Church seating /Mass Attendees	School Enrollment
A	St. Lucy	5,137	1,928 (38%)	1,300/5	277
	St. Richard	1,614	627 (39%)	500/3	158
B	St. John Nepomuk	1,090	425 (39%)	450/3	114
	St. Joseph	3,058	823 (27%)	560/3	192
	St. Rita*	4,000	1,014 (25%)	935/3	248
C	St. Paul the Apostle	2,897	1,188 (41%)	1,000/3	0
	St. Sebastian*	1,514	544 (36%)	420/3	150
D	Cristo Rey	5,554	820 (15%)	540/4	0
	St. Patrick	1,305	614 (47%)	500/3	0
E	Sacred Heart	2,363	665 (28%)	750/3	165
	St. Edward	2,733	620 (23%)	700/3	382
Totals	District Parishes 11	31,265	9,268 (30%)	36 Weekend Masses	1,686
Archdiocesan Parish Priests				9	
*Religious Order Parish Priests				4	
Parish Directors				0	
Permanent Deacons				8	
Ratio: Parish Priest to Registered Parishioner				1 : 2,405	
Ratio: Parish Priest to Mass Attendees				1 : 713	
Catholic Schools & Other Catholic Institutions					
San Juan Diego Middle School (65 Students)					
St. Catherine High School (376 Students)					
The Racine Dominican Sisters and Siena Center					

Racine General Demographics:
 Population..... 81,855
 Males..... 39,869
 Females..... 41,986
 Households..... 31,449
 Median Age..... 33.1
 Average household size 2.54

Racine Cultural Demographics:
 White..... 56,408
 African-Am 16,634
 Hispanic..... 11,422
 Asian 497

Source: <http://racine.areaconnect.com/statistics.htm>

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District Commendations

- We commend you for the grassroots initiative to study your Catholic Schools! Continue and complete the process to ensure affordable education of the highest quality for all who seek Catholic education.
- We commend you for your efforts to strengthen parishes through committed parish-to-parish partnerships, notably S. Patrick and Cristo Rey; S. Edward and Sacred Heart and shared celebrations of sacraments, including the sacrament of Confirmation.
- We also recognize all the ways you reach out beyond your parishes to relieve the burdens of others: HALO, Katrina support, mission out reach in South America, the Philippines, Dominican Republic
- We applaud your Evangelization efforts at the County Fair! And Vocation education efforts. We acknowledge the leadership of St. Paul's for this.

District Directives for 2006-07

We strongly urge the leadership in your district, namely, the district dean, all clergy and parish representatives to the APC district assemblies to meet together twice a year, fall and late winter, to give special attention to the following recommendations, setting reasonable goals (fall 2006) and measuring your progress (spring 2007) on the following:

1. **Grow in Holiness**

- Study the Mass attendance of your district. We ask you to work together as a district to increase overall regular Mass attendance to 20%. Urge your Prayer and Worship Committees to develop common strategies, present them to the district pastors and implement them. We look forward to hearing of your success.
- Watch for and plan to send a parish representative to one of the information sessions provided by the Director of Evangelization to learn about an archdiocesan-wide small group study to be initiated in 2007-08 called: *Why Catholic?* If feasible, plan your 2007-08 budgets to include participation in the program and identify leaders to be trained as parish program facilitators. This program is available in Spanish as well.

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2. Strengthen Parishes

- Develop a city-wide report on the status of the whole mission of the Church in Racine. Since school planning is underway, it is important to see it in the context of the fuller Mission of the parishes. The parish consultant and a member of the Planning/Implementation Commission will work with you
 - to assess your mission strengths as a district
 - to consider what roles each parish plays in building up the church in Racine
 - to develop a comprehensive vision for the next 5-10 years that will promote parish and district-wide Catholic identity, support inter-parish collaborative activities and strengthen the sense of community for the whole church in Racine.

Their report will include:

- Faith formation for all ages: Evangelization, RCIA, Sunday evening HS program; "Children's Church"
- Hispanic Ministry and African American Ministry
- Ministry to those who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Prudent stewardship of material resources and human resources
- Inter-parish communication
- Community building activities, e.g. ministry to, with and for seniors, married couples, young adults
- Outreach to homebound members
- Devotional life
- Charity & Advocacy for Justice, SOAR

3. Foster Vocations

- Continue to encourage prayer for, education about and invitation to Holy Orders and vowed religious life. Build on your successful vocation awareness, education and invitation practices. We encourage St. Paul's parish to continue to lead this!
- Help singles find meaningful ways to encourage one another in Christian living and participate fully in parish life and outreach.
- Lift up marriage as a unique expression and witness of God's love for the church. Renew and strengthen parish efforts in marriage preparation and support for young married couples.

4. Strengthen Catholic Education/Promote Lifelong Faith Formation

- Complete your Catholic school planning. In the plan, tell us how each parish will be supporting Catholic Schools in your area.

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- Support and encourage all teachers/catechists of religious education in your schools and catechetical programs, as well as adults who facilitate adult formation programs, to work toward catechetical certification and recognize those who receive their certificates.
5. **Uphold Our Mission of Justice & Charity**
- Gather the Human Concerns committees of all the parishes for the purpose of identifying one or two areas to study, to educate the faithful, and design and implement an advocacy plan.
 - Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our sister relationship with Sagrada Familia parish in the Dominican Republic.
6. **Be Wise Stewards**
- Continue to be grateful and prudent stewards of all you have received.

