

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: 8
 Location by County: Fond du Lac County
 Dean: Very Rev. Victor R. Capriolo
 APC Member: Mary Ann Gurath, Holy Family Parish, Fond du Lac

Cluster	Parishes	Registered Members	Average Mass attendance 2005 (% of reg)	Church seating /# weekend Masses	Elementary School Enrollment
A	St. Kilian, St. Kilian	255	85 (39%)	278/1	
	St. Martin, Ashford	250	263 (105%)	200/2	
	St. Matthew., Campbellsport	1,493	639(40%)	44/2	133
B	Good Shepherd, Eden	1,927	938 (49%)	450/4	80
C	Holy Cross, Mt. Calvary	1,049	487 (46%)	370/3	See CPES
	St. Cloud, St. Cloud	490	215 (44%)	275/2	
	St. Joseph, St. Joseph	257	129 (50%)	200/1	
D	Our Risen Savior, Eldorado	390	229 (59%)	340/1	
	Presentation of BVM, N FdL	1,465	429 (29%)	325/2	FACES 463
E	Holy Family, Fond du Lac	15,426	5,595 (36%)	2200/13	463
F	Sons of Zebedee, Byron	736	290 (39%)	400/4	
G	St. John the Baptist, Johnsburg	914	390 (43%)	400/2	CPES 120
	St. Mary, Marytown	408	289 (71%)	520/2	
H	St. Brendan, Brandon *	113	76 (67%)	125/1	
	St. Joseph, Waupun*	1,160	294 (25%)	239/3	
I	St. Catherine of Siena, Ripon	2,019	629 (31%)	750/3	
Totals	Parishes 15	28,352	10,977 (39%)	46 Weekend Masses	796
Archdiocesan Parish Priests					11
Religious Order Parish Priests					1
Parish Directors					0
Permanent Deacons					4
Ratio: Parish Priest to Registered Parishioner					1 : 2,363
Ratio: Parish Priest to Mass Attendees					1 : 915
Catholic Schools & Other Institutions					
St. Mary chapel, Springvale Limited use					
St. Lawrence Seminary				197 STUDENTS	
St. Mary's Springs HS				349 STUDENTS	
Marian College					
St. Agnes Hospital					

FACES=Fond de Lac Area Catholic Elementary Schools

CPES=Consolidated Parochial Elementary Schools

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District Commendations

- We commend your district for your continued dedication to pastoral planning and the generosity of so many who support the building required to meet the needs of the faithful in your county.
- We commend the community that gathers for Sunday worship at St. Martin, Ashford. Your attendance tops the charts!

District Directives for 2006-07:

We strongly urge the leadership in your district, namely, the district dean, clergy and parish representatives to the district, meet together twice a year, fall and late winter, to give special attention to the following recommendation, to set reasonable goals (fall 2006) and to evaluate 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 by 20% in all parishes? 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 budget to include participation in the program and identify leaders to be trained as parish program facilitators. This program is available in Spanish as well.

2. **Strengthen Parishes**

- Continue to work in partnership with each other whenever possible to make the best use of all resources, broaden participation in spiritual and educational efforts.

3. **Foster a Culture of Vocation**

- Continue to encourage prayer for, education about and invitation to Holy Orders and vowed religious life.
- Help singles find meaningful ways to encourage one another in Christian living and participate in parish life and outreach.

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- 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**
- Support and encourage all teachers of religious education in your schools and catechetical programs, and adults who facilitate adult formation programs, to work toward catechetical certification and recognize those who receive their certificates.
 - Continue to develop a comprehensive plan for Catholic school education in the city of Fond du Lac.
5. **Uphold Our Mission of Justice and 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 prudent and grateful stewards of all we have received.

