

DISCIPLES IN MISSION

The Parish Evangelizing Profile (2002) For Goals I, II, and III of *Go and Make Disciples*

Name of Parish: St. John the Apostle

Date of Parish Reflection Day: April 13, 2002

Total number participating in the Parish Reflection Day: 61

Goal I: To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others.

1. What does Goal I mean to our Parish?

We need to evangelize ourselves, grow in our knowledge of our faith, and put our faith into action. We need to provide a sense of community for all ages and then reach out to others. Our parish needs to be a family. The more we give to others the more we receive. The active sign of our faith will help bring others back. We need to be examples to children of adults sharing their faith. We need to have a personal commitment to prayer and a personal relationship with God. As a parish we need to encourage traditional prayer. In addition to Mass we need to pray together as a parish. We need to value the Sacraments and participate in Eucharistic Adoration.

2. What do you think are the most effective ways that we are achieving this goal in our parish right now?

Most effective ways mentioned:

Faith Sharing Groups(DIM, SINE).

Our school, families, and music ministry.

Our priests and their involvement with families.

Parish organizations.

Participation in fund raisers.

Church decoration.

3. On a scale of 1 - 7, to what degree do you think our parish is achieving Goal I?

The number recorded here is an average of the numbers given by all the groups.

NOT AT ALL	PARTIALLY	COMPLETELY
1 2	3 (4) 5	6 7

4. Which objectives would your group like to see us work on as a parish so that we can become even more renewed in Christ?

<u>Objective</u>	<u>No. of times selected (3 groups)</u>
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| • To foster a sense of being disciples among Catholic adults and children. | 2 |
| • To foster an experience of conversion and renewal in each individual and every parish. | 1 |
| • To highlight the evangelizing dimension of Sunday Eucharist, the power of God's word in worship, and our recognition of Christ's presence in the sacraments. | 1 |
| • To instill a renewed understanding of the faith among Catholics | 1 |

- To create small group experiences of prayer and study

1

5. Suggest one or two specific ways to accomplish each objective that your group selected.

Objective

To foster a sense of being disciples among Catholic adults and children.

Suggested Strategies

- Communicate one-on-one with new parishioners and uninvolved parishioners.
- Lay people be more involved in administrative duties of parish to free up our priests for pastoral duties.
- Bulletin board with pictures and phone numbers of leaders of parish organizations
- Once a month have new members stand during mass and congregation welcomes with applause. Will help us know who new members are.
- Have lay visitors come to CCD and school classes to talk about the part faith plays in their lives.

Objective

To foster an experience of conversion and renewal in each individual and every parish.

Suggested Strategies

- Increase communication to help let people know what is available to be involved in. Examples: Fall fellowship of faith. Have parish organization fair in conjunction with soup supper - each organization has a booth with representatives present to answer questions. (Have to visit booths to get dessert.)
- Address every stage of life and provide groups for all ages.
- Hosting missions, welcoming committee, and greeters.

Objective

To highlight the evangelizing dimension of Sunday Eucharist, the power of God's word in worship, and our recognition of Christ's presence in the sacraments.

Suggested Strategies

- Build confidence to share our faith.
- Emphasize church documents and Catechism
- "Did you know" sections in bulletin and newsletter to remind us of what we have in the Mass. Example: "Did you know that if you come to mass every week we cover 90% of the Bible in our three-year cycle?"

Objective

To instill a renewed understanding of the faith among Catholics.

Suggested Strategies

- Collect library tapes and make available for borrowing
- Catholic radio in Lincoln
- Provide reasonable resources, example: inexpensive copies of Catechism
- Develop a video of school and parish activity information

Objective

To create small group experiences of prayer and study.

Suggested Strategies

- Continue DIM faith sharing groups
- Adult Catholic education

GOAL II: To invite all people in the United States, whatever their social or cultural background, to hear the message of salvation in Jesus Christ so they may come to join us in the fullness of the Catholic faith.

1. What does Goal II mean to our parish?

We need to get past our own personal inhibitions and biases in order to invite others and welcome ethnic diversity. We need to understand other cultures so as not to offend. We need to be aware of and sensitive to the social and economic levels of our parishioners. We need to welcome families with small children at mass. We need better coordination among parish organizations to work together for common evangelization goals. We need ways of socializing outside of mass. We need to invite neighbors into our homes and our church. We need to be involved and model good examples for our kids. We need to be welcoming and reach out to our parishioners, more than for our weekly mass obligation.

2. What do you think are the most effective ways that we are achieving this goal in our parish right now?

Most effective ways mentioned:

Current parish organizations are very active and all have strengths. (Mentioned by two groups)
We have a prayerful sanctuary.
Our events are open to the public.
Our Priests are welcoming and their homilies encourage us to live our faith.

3. On a scale of 1 - 7, to what degree do you think our parish is achieving Goal II?

The number recorded here is an average of the numbers given by all the groups.

NOT AT ALL		PARTIALLY			COMPLETELY	
1	2	3	(4)	5	6	7

4. Which objectives would your group like to see us work on as a parish so that we can become even more missionary minded, like Christ?

Objective No. of times selected (3 groups)

- To help every Catholic feel comfortable about sharing his or her faith. 2
- To effectively welcome back those who have left the church 2
- To make every Catholic institution more welcoming. 1

- To use special family and parish times to invite people to faith.

1

5. Suggest one or two specific ways to accomplish each objective that your group selected.

Objective

To help every Catholic feel comfortable about sharing his or her faith.

Suggested Strategies

Apologetic workshops and study group.

Faith sharing groups.

Welcoming committee assign a parish family to adopt a new family.

Greeters at each mass.

Objective

To effectively welcome back those who have left the church.

Suggested Strategies

Identify overlooked people and invite them to mass and events.

Identify and contact people who have left the church.

Personal invitations.

Objective

To make every Catholic institution more welcoming.

Suggested Strategies

Greeters at each mass.

Include singles and widowed in bringing up gifts at mass.

Objective

To use special family and parish times to invite people to faith.

Suggested Strategies

Cultural diversity.

GOAL III: To foster Gospel values in our society, promoting the dignity of the human person, the importance of the family, and the common good of our society, so that our nation may continue to be transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ.

1. What does Goal III mean to our parish?

Our mission is to serve the needy, helpless, and marginalized. Like Mother Teresa, we should evangelize through action. Our focus is on mid-school and youth. We need to reach out to every age and social group, specifically post-high school and all ethnic groups. We need to get involved at every level - home, church, and government. We need to be involved with organizations that serve the needy and work for social justice. We need to be involved in Catholic schools and parish activities. We need to support families and encourage families to be balanced and spend time together. We need to promote the dignity of each person.

2. What do you think are the most effective ways that we are achieving this goal in our parish right now?

Most effective ways mentioned:

Fostering importance of the family.

Participating in parish organizations.

Our priests are working at teaching us about living as Christ.

Our priests welcome new ideas.

3. On a scale of 1 - 7, to what degree do you think our parish is achieving Goal III?

The number recorded here is an average of the numbers given by all the groups.

NOT AT ALL		PARTIALLY		COMPLETELY
1	2	3	(4)	5
				6
				7

4. Which objectives would your group like to see us work on as a parish so even more of society is transformed by the saving power of Christ?

<u>Objective</u>	<u>No. of times selected (3 groups)</u>
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- | | |
|---|---|
| • To involve parishes and local service groups in alleviating the immediate needs of people in their areas. | 3 |
| • To foster the importance of the family. | 1 |
| • To involve Catholics on every level in areas of public policy, in the media and in questions of economic systems. | 2 |

5. Suggest one or two specific ways to accomplish each objective that your group selected.

Objective

To involve parishes and local service groups in alleviating the immediate needs of people in their areas.

Suggested Strategies

- Get more people involved through parish organizations - have organization fair once or twice a year and sell more from the pulpit. Offer personal invitations.
- Identify needs within our parish and help them first.
- Exchange with Vietnamese and Spanish parishes - emphasis on what we can do for them **and** what they can do for us.
- Services for elderly and others in needs. Involve young and old. Establish a “central dispatch.”
- Bring back parish coffees.
- Encourage participation in volunteering for visiting the sick through Parish Nurses program.
- Provide sacraments for shut-ins and those in nursing homes.

Objective

To foster the importance of the family.

Suggested Strategies

- Youth program expansion. Hire youth minister (maybe share with another parish).
- Recruit families to adopt person in need.

Objective

To involve Catholics on every level in areas of public policy, in the media and in questions of economic systems.

Suggested Strategies

- Write letters to political leaders.
- Get involved in elections.
- Encourage people to attend RCIA and faith sharing groups.
- Encourage people to show more hospitality at mass and meetings.
- Develop welcoming committee.