

STM PARISH COUNCIL RETREAT
SEPTEMBER 14, 2002
Mt. St. Mary's Seminary

In Attendance: Fr. Bill Wagner, Ray Neltner, Dee Archer, David Lees, Peggy Fangman, Matt Malott, Michelle Stulz, Rhonda Roberts, Michael Thomas, Janet Tate, Becky Ready, Darline Foltz, Mike Gennett, Vic Ivers, Del Grosser, Barb Schmidt, Linda Young, Deacon Miller

AGENDA

- Icebreaker – “I AM...”
- Hopes & Concerns
- Review Parish Mission Statement
- Models of the Church
- Visioning Activity – STM in 2006
- Organizing our thoughts
- Next Steps

ICEBREAKER

I am an effective team member because:

- Flexible, like new things
- Like to work with people
- Share ideas
- Give my full support
- Overall well being of church
- Want STM to unify
- Business; goal-oriented skills
- Willing to back up Bob G.
- Lots of contacts in parish-get lots of inputs
- 30 year corporate background; global perspective
- teach and sales skills
- opinionated
- logical
- provide larger picture of church
- work hard
- enjoy listening
- brainstorming and generating new ideas
- team player; work with others
- Unique perspective (parent-staff- julyfest...)
- like results; not meetings
- change-challenge-involvement
- communication skills
- lots of parish “connections”
- problem-solving; talk and listen
- provide “process” to team
- ability to hear others and decide

HOPES

- Willingness to follow
- Comaradarie of team
- Function as a team
- Accomplishments to support parish
- Ability to accomplish our goal (3)
- Enthusiasm of parish council members (2)
- Generate new ideas
- Willingness to serve STM (2)
- Work towards future goals together
- Commitment/focus
- Catalyst for parish's life
- Willingness to volunteer and take on challenges
- Teams' vision-one purpose
- Get whole parish involved
- Move mountains
- Want people to be involved

CONCERNS

- Ability to "work together" (3)
- Divisions; own agenda
- Willingness to work together; be open (1)
- Focus; work as a team
- Ability to move the people
- Teams vision
- Make decisions and move forward (2)
- Understanding of church and community's needs in today's world
- 2-3 definitive goals; more clarity (1)
- Too much right brain?

MISSION STATEMENT REVIEW

What we liked

- "Inspire"
- "Led by Holy Spirit..."
- "Dedicate ourselves"
- "Holy spirit, family, together"
- "Devoted to sharing faith"
- "dedicate to gospel"
- "strengthening bonds"
- "led by holy spirit"
- "Roman Catholic Church"
- Family emphasis-development of children's spiritual lives
- All the verbs: devote, commit, strengthen
- Family-we are a family and still have dissension but love
- Led by the Holy Spirit
- Roman Catholic Church – not a given

Changes

- Needs to be more real
- This is a journey we are not there; use “ing” words
- Needs to be more welcoming, more inclusive. Together
- Need “how”
- Needs to be guiding and specific enough to guide groups
- Highlight “one” parish family
- Wording “we at”
- Emphasis on family
- Commit to kingdom
- Should not be static
- Acknowledge differences
- Unifying factor-faith
- General but not vague
- Need teamwork focus
- Add commitment to fellowship and education
- Use “word and example” instead of “prayer and action”
- Need something to generate warmth and fellowship

Potential Uses of Mission Statement

- Use current as a guide
- Need specific objectives tied to mission statement
- Chuck it but work toward what it’s getting at
- Display it publicly
- To help us focus
- Set goals
- Strengthen bonds within the council
- Help us to take the “me” out and the “holy spirit” in
- Read the mission statement before parish meetings; use it more
- Start using it; use before “votes”; create “reflection sheet” for us to use
- Pray about decisions prior to decision making

MODELS OF THE CHURCH

Presented by Fr. Bill

VISIONING ACTIVITY – STM in 2006

Output from this exercise saved in excel file titled “PC brainstorm”

NEXT STEPS

- Collect info about how to conduct census/needs assessment – VIC
- Further prioritize data
- Continue these topics on our agendas so it doesn’t die
- Continuing education of parish council members of “what we are doing” now
- Consider “sub committee” model to accomplish things
- PC meetings should be decision-making; not idea creation
- Parish Council orientation