

**New Evangelization Training Sessions
Breakout for Ministerial Staff**

11:15 am

- Please take a seat at a table with a sign relating to your ministerial role: *Word, Worship, Community or Service*
- Join us in an opening prayer: ***God of wonder, on the day we were born you began your work in us. We know that you continue to work not only in us but through us. Help us be good servants, always doing your work with open and eager hearts. Whatever comes our way today, keep us positive and peaceful, always mindful of your presence and sustaining love among us. Give us strength and courage to experience fully each moment of this day. Watch over us, protect and guide us throughout this and every day. Amen.***
- Overview and expectations for this hour: Assess yourself and your parish in terms of evangelization. Identify one short-term goal and one long-term goal you can take back to your parish.
- Each table should identify a table facilitator to record ideas for strengthening evangelization efforts.

11:30 am

- Take a few moments to reflect on Robert Feduccia's overview of the New Evangelization and your assessment of yourself as an "Evangelizer."
- Introduce yourself to others at the table by sharing the areas where you are strongest. Which areas do you want to strengthen?

11:45 am

- Review the handout in your folder entitled "Parish Assessment Questions for Ministerial Staff."
- The goal for the first year of our Pastoral Plan for Evangelization is to invite parishioners to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. In light of that, what at your parish is working well? What needs to be different?
e.g. Liturgical ministers: Does your parish worship aid make it comfortable for a person to return to Church? e.g. DRE's: What does your parish do when someone asks for First Holy Communion but the timing does not coincide with the parish program?

12:00 pm

- Table facilitators ask people to share results of their parish assessment.
- Brainstorm ideas for strengthening parish evangelization efforts. Write them down on Easel Pad sheet and post on wall for all to see.
- As time allows, share with the large group ideas each table has identified.

12:10 pm

- After listening to shared ideas, write down one short-term goal and one long-term goal you can take back to your parish.

Parish Assessment Questions for Ministerial Staff

WORD

- Does our religious education program encompass all ages?
- How do we provide for those who arrive mid-year?
- How do we provide for those with special needs (eg. Disability, language, military)?
- Are our requirements for Baptism, Confirmation, and Marriage limited to those set by universal and particular law (diocese), so as to not create unnecessary barriers?
- Does our parish provide opportunities for encountering Christ outside of sacramental experience?
- How does our parish assist in the development of individual spirituality?
- What aids do we provide for personal prayer?
- Does our RCIA program actively seek out those who may be interested in becoming Catholic?

WORSHIP

The Celebration of the Eucharist is the center of our faith:

- How does our worship proclaim the Gospel and encourage parishioners to live it?
- Does our style of worship enable full, active participation of visiting Catholics?
- Has our parish developed parish-specific traditions that are not explained to visitors why may not give them a feeling of belonging?
- Do we provide aids to participation appropriate to our population (eg. Font size, language, sound system)?
- Do we print or say a statement for inactive Catholics or non-Catholics about receiving communion?

How does our parish encourage the reception of the other Sacraments?

- Is the Sacrament of Penance easily and regularly available?
- How does our parish assist in the development of individual spirituality?
- What other liturgical prayer (eg. Adoration, Liturgy of the Hours) do we provide?
- What aids do we provide for personal prayer?
- Are our requirements for Baptism, Confirmation, and Marriage limited to those set by universal and particular law (diocese), so as to not create unnecessary barriers?
- How do we evangelize to inactive Catholics through the celebration of weddings and funerals?

COMMUNITY

- How do we connect parishioners and families together? Are there small groups or other gatherings that bring parishioners together?
- Are names and contact information for parish leadership readily available?
- When did we last do a pictorial directory?
- Could our parish registration process be simplified?
- Do we have a clear and simple process for participating in parish ministries?
- Do we provide opportunities for particular populations (eg. Youth, college students, seniors) to form peer relationships?
- Do we have at least one annual whole community event (eg. Feast day celebration, picnic)?
- How does our parish support those who may feel on the margins of our community – the homebound, those in nursing facilities, those who are separated or divorced, etc.?
- Are there particular ethnic populations within our community that need attention? Do our parish materials need to be printed in more than one language?

SERVICE

We live in a largely non-Catholic diocese. For many, our parish is the face of the Catholic Church.

- How do we show that we are part of the neighborhood/community around us?
- How do we reach out to those in need?
- How do we care for the sick and elderly of the parish community?
- How do we show unity with our neighboring Catholic Churches, including eastern rite?
- How do we collaborate with other Christians? (ecumenism)
- Are there non-Christian religious groups in our parish boundaries? How do we relate to them? (inter-religious dialogue)
- Do our justice and peace ministries call people to closer relationship with Jesus Christ through their service?

Write down one short-term goal for your parish:

What is one long-term goal you would like your parish to work toward, in terms of evangelization?
