

SHORT FORM REPORT
FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION, May 18, 2017

Present: Joe D'Angelo, Carol Gabis, Marianne Hartkemeyer, John Mercado, John Meyer, C. Tenhundfeld; **Absent:** Deb Cook; **Facilitator:** John Meyer; **Recorder:** Joe D'Angelo; **Time Keeper:** M. Hartkemeyer **Prayer:** C Tenhundfeld

Maintenance: Based on the book and expansive study of U.S. parishes, "*Great Catholic Parishes*" by William Simon and his Parish Catalyst Team, we used the 4 best practices of those parishes and 4 examination criteria to explore what we need to do to move toward the greatness Simon discovered. We examined each practice regarding what we need to **STOP**, **START**, **REFINE** or **EXPERIMENT** with and looked how we might address these through education and faith formation.

Practice 1. Great Parishes Share Leadership: Leadership in a parish is based on competence and the quality of involvement and coordination by clergy, lay staff, and volunteers in faith ministries. **STOP** allowing everything to be done by the same few people. **START** finding ways to get more people involved. **REFINE** education and training for leaders and ministers. **EXPERIMENT** with different scheduling ideas.

Practice 2. Great Parishes Foster Spiritual Maturity: Spiritual Maturity is defined as engaged and ever-evolving knowledge, deepening of our relationship with God, and openness to new perspectives. **STOP** judging how faith should be expressed based on pettiness or non-essentials. **START** designing a variety of faith programs to reach parishioners at different points in their lives. Offer more faith classes to explain our Catholic faith. **REFINE** teaching so that it reflects more than just rituals and rules. **EXPERIMENT** with different types of scripture-faith presentations.

Practice 3. Great Parishes Excel on Sunday: Good liturgy is achieved by the care, time, talent, energy, and resources dedicated to each experience. The Sunday Mass should be a welcoming and meaningful experience for visitors and parishioners.

STOP routine recitation or reading of prayers. **START** a functioning, well-educated Worship Commission to assess and constantly improve the worship experience. **START** approaching liturgies with prayerfulness and focus on participation of all the assembly, not just the special ministries. **REFINE** and expand the Greeter ministry and connect it to the rest of the liturgical experience. **EXPERIMENT** with different social and faith activities before or after Mass.

Practice 4. Great Parishes Evangelize: All members should understand how to be active evangelizers and engage in inviting others to experience Christ through our parish. The parish should provide meaningful service programs, social events, and mission opportunities.

STOP thinking of Church as something only for ourselves or our friendship groups. **START** becoming more connected with the larger Church and more comfortable inviting others to find Christ here. **REFINE** our attitude toward evangelization and the ways in which we reach out to new people. The service opportunities started by Peace and Justice Commission is an example. **EXPERIMENT** with signs, fliers, or other creative ideas.

Discussion Items: Can we collaborate with Peace and Justice commission on looking at issues of prejudice toward non-Christian religions, such as Judaism and Islam? Understanding Islam will be challenging. Carol and Marianne suggested names of possible new Faith Formation members. We decided to review the 2016-2017 Faith Formation Objectives at our June meeting.

Reports: Claire presented a brief report on LF parishioners at OLG. There were 5 confirmations, 1 Baptism, and 1 First Communion in this Easter season. An adult will be received into the Church and confirmed and another infant baptized in June.

Next Faith Formation Meeting: Thursday June 15, 7:00 p.m.

Prayer: Deb Cook; Facilitator: Marianne Hartkemeyer; Recorder: Carol Gabis