



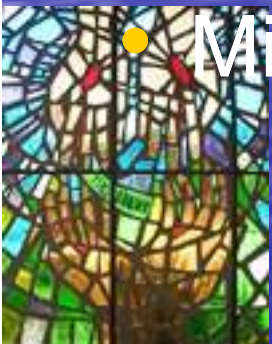
St. Thomas the Apostle

Pastoral Plan
2011 - 2016

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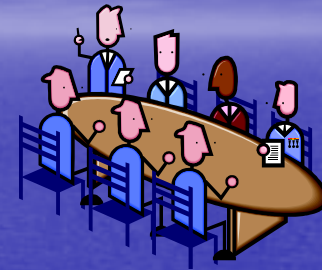
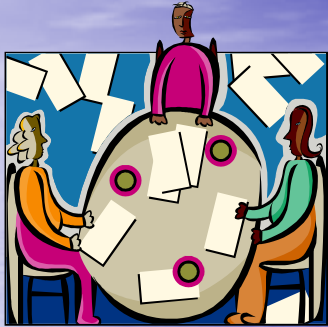


Purpose of a Pastoral Plan

- Provides vision for the future of the Parish
- Maximizes the Church's impact on the life of our parishioners and community
- Meets the visions of our Pastor
- Reflects uniqueness of our parish
 - Cultural, linguistic, economic, social and demographic diversities



How We Got Here As A Council



Series of Retreats

Ministry Head Retreats
Pastoral Council Weekend

Monthly Meetings

Look at current situation &
discern common themes
from retreats, feedback, etc.

Set Goals

- * Pastoral Council set goals to work towards vision of Pastor
- * Lay out concrete steps for maximum impact on maximum # people



St. Thomas Core Values

- **Evangelization** - a welcoming, spirit-filled community, hospitable, stepping out, active, working
- **Worship** — Spiritual community, active participation, sharing, parish family touching the hearts, spiritual journey, celebration, inclusion
- **Word** — Lifelong learning, cultivating, build the community of God
- **Community** —Parish forms core of our spiritual lives, reinforcing, encouraging, diverse, frequent gathering



St. Thomas Core Values

- **Service** — emulating Christ's model, sharing our unique talents, drawing community together
- **Stewardship** — willingly and generously sharing, adequate training, encouragement and supervision, not dependent on extra-ordinary fundraisers
- **Leadership** — visioning, planning, empowering, and evaluating — serving the community



Being Church – what if Church was a VERB?



Stop “doing church”

– Merely adding activities and motions



Start BEING Church

– Building a congregation of dedicated and energized members who are growing spiritually and, at the same time, reaching out in concern and service to others



As a Parish we want to

1. Increase Unity in our Parish
2. Promote Culture of Discipleship
3. Enhance Welcoming Atmosphere
4. Bring Small Faith Communities to the whole church



To do this we need to ...

- Encourage parishioner-initiated ministries and give support
- Increase the number of small groups and communities
- Hold more multicultural & parish-wide events
- Provide training on spiritual maturity and other faith formation for adults
- Welcome disciples

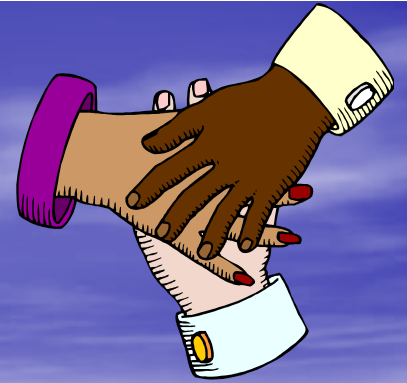


1. Increasing Unity

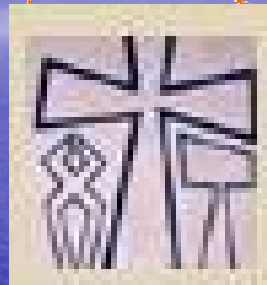
- We are a multicultural and diverse community united by our faith in God
- Foster deep and strong emotional connection to our church
- We need to create friendships at church – opportunities to gather where the only agenda item is relationship building



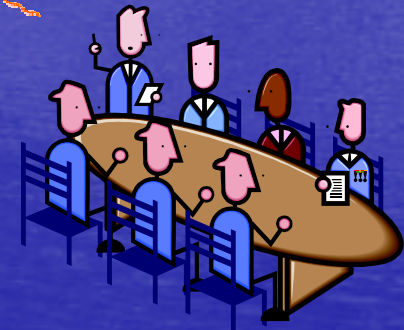
UNITY



Bi-Cultural
Mass



Parish-Wide
Feast Days
Lady of La Salette
9/19
St. Thomas 7/3



Liturgy & Worship
Planning



Social
Gatherings



Social Gatherings



- We are spiritually diverse – but unified in our goal of spiritual growth
- Opportunities to learn and grow together
 - Challenging homilies
 - Short classes
 - Service opportunities



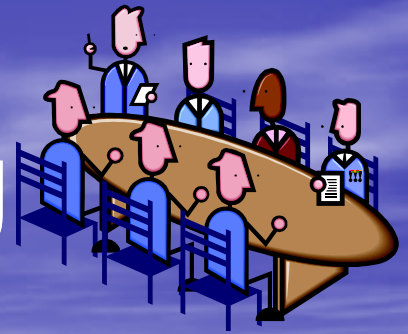
Bicultural Masses



- We are a multicultural and diverse community united by our faith in God
- 2011 Action Steps – Continue Bilingual/Bicultural Masses. Begin Sharing priests among the communities.
 - Provide more bilingual events- Ministry Head Retreat, Evangelization Retreat
 - 2012 – add additional cultural experiences



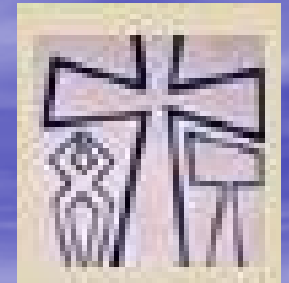
Liturgy & Worship Planning



- We need consistent reinforcement as we are one family in the Spirit
- 2011 – 2015 Action Steps – identify opportunities for united worship
- Highlight that we are a Eucharistic Community



Parish Wide Celebration



WE ARE A LA SALETTE COMMUNITY

September 19th – Feast Day- to be celebrated in 2011



WE ARE THE COMMUNITY OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

July 3rd – Feast Day- Small celebration to be planned in the Future. Relics to be displayed to honor St. Thomas.



2011 Timeline



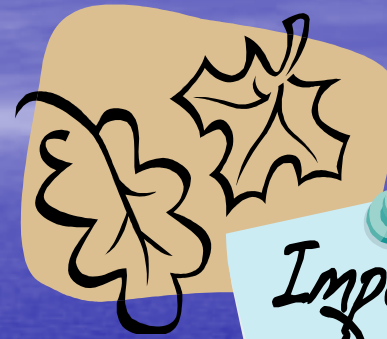
COMMUNICATION



7/3
**Important
DATE!**

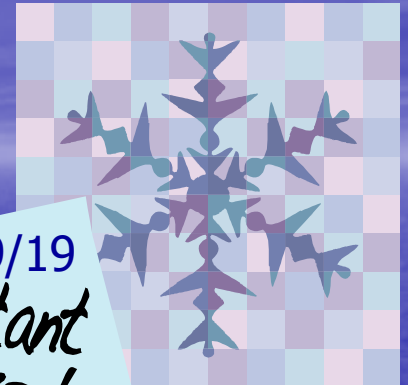
LaSalette Ministry Summit

Summer Fest



9/19
**Important
DATE!**

Lady of La Salette – September 19th
Our Lady of Guadalupe- December 12th
New Social Gatherings



Discipleship



ONE STEP AT A TIME

FOCUS ON RESULTS



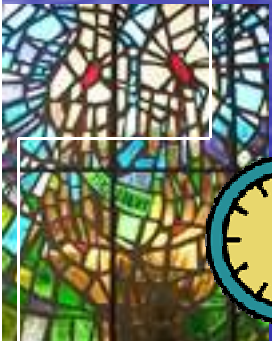
Treasure



Talents



Time



2. Creating Disciples



- Involvement is what we “do” – engagement is how you “feel”
- Disciples don’t compartmentalize their faith or lives
 - Live the Gospel



Opportunities for Discipleship



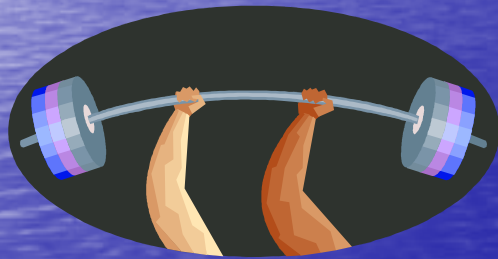
Accountability
Groups



Study
Groups



Social
Groups



Talent Discover
& Strength Development
Groups



Support
Groups



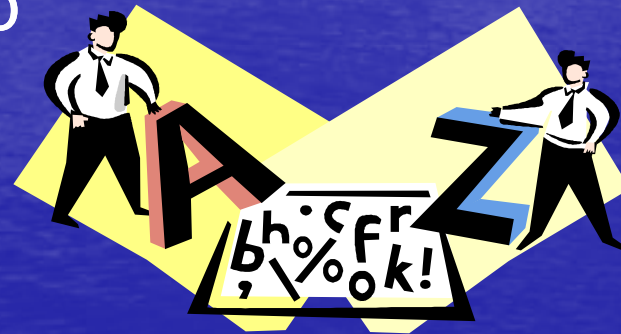
Small Faith Groups

- Discipleship happens in small groups!
- Small groups offer members opportunity
 - To form deep and lasting friendships
 - To have their spiritual needs met
 - To learn and grow
 - To be encouraged in spiritual development
 - To feel cared about
 - To see the spiritual growth in others



Accountability Groups

- Encourage each other in the effort to face everyday challenges
 - Praise & Prayer Group
 - Marriage Encounter



Social Groups

- Dinner Committee
- Over 50's
- Young Adult Ministry ("YAM")
- Summerfest/ Kermesse Committee
- Boy Scouts/ Girl Scouts
- Knights of Columbus
- Legacy: A College Ministry
- Women's Auxillary
- Welcome Ministry

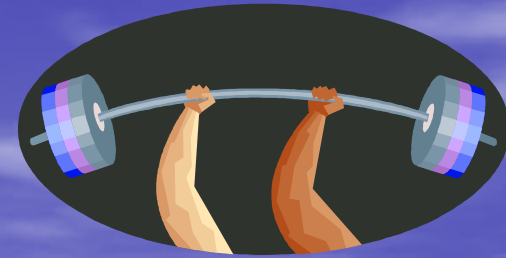


Support Groups

- Offer assistance and encouragement of others who are facing or who faced similar difficulties
- May be more temporary in nature
- Bring resources and information
 - Prayer Line
 - Mercy Meal
 - Legion of Mary
 - Homeschoolers
 - Cursillo/ Ultreya
 - African Parishioners Organization
 - Jamaican Outreach
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Pro Life Ministry
 - Night Shelter Ministry
 - St. Vincent de Paul



Strengths Finder



- Invest the time needed to discover talents and gifts and then put members into roles they can perform with strength.
 - What are you good at? What do you love to do?
 - If money and time were no object, what would you do for God?



Study Groups



- Re-invigorate existing Renew Groups (resources are available)
- Bible Study groups
- RCIA-style scripture analysis after Sunday services
- Book Clubs
- Just Faith



Small Faith Groups

- 2012 – 2016 Action Plan
 - To identify NEW leaders among these groups to formalize a Small Faith Group Program so all new members can easily join a group and find support
 - Continue to add opportunities to gather
 - Young Couples/Parenting
 - Refresher courses
 - Seniors
 - Neighbors (off-site)
 - Social gatherings
 - Recreational gatherings



2011-2016 Timeline



Dinner Club
Young Adult (YAM)



Add new social events



RCIA –Style Bible Study



Formalize Small Group
infrastructure



Measure Results



Resources on the Web-site
Evaluate New Group Opportunities



3. Welcome



Bienvenue

Καλώς ήρθατε

Vítejte

Üdvözöljük



Welkom



Welcome Training for
Ministry Leaders and
Ministers ("volunteers")

Improved
Connection for
New and Existing
Members

Dobro došli



Piacere



Willkommen



Enhancing Welcome

- A community of love is welcoming to all
 - A parish where people feel wanted and needed
 - Practice hospitality and demonstrate an inviting spirit



Enhancing Welcome



- Highlight welcoming atmosphere.
 - Welcoming parishioners (those trained in “welcoming” or with talent to be welcoming) to set the example.
 - Welcoming atmosphere to begin in the Parish Office and extend to small groups and events.



Putting the Plan into Action

WE NEED YOU!



Initiatives Undertaken



- Improved Parish Missions
- *IGNITE!* launched 2007
- Newcomers Welcome Ministry launched 2008
- Evangelization – Recognized in Diocesan in 2009
- Young Adult Ministry launched 2009
- LaSalette Feast
- Capital Campaign/ Building a New Church
- Bilingual Evangelization Retreats

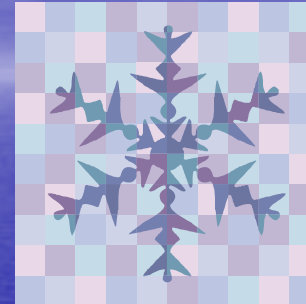
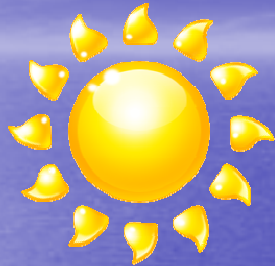
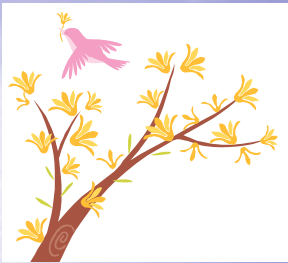


Communication Plan

- Most IMPORTANT - From the pulpit
- Modernized
 - Web casts, pod casts, e-mail blasts, Phone-tree
- Remain personal – but treat every announcement as if to a shy or new parishioners (encouragement new involvement – not merely new members).
- New Website
- Bulletin



2011– Communication Infrastructure



- Phone Tree Launched
- Update contact data
- Email – Newsletter
- Facility Enhancement
- Social Media
- Enhanced Website

To Do:

- Expand Bulletin Detail
- Improve Bulletin Boards
- Continue to enhance website



Identify New Leaders

- A Vibrant Parish requires an active and empowered Laity
- Couple existing ministry leaders with dedicated assistants
- Empower new ministries as formed
- Our multitude of existing programs need a platform for “promotion”



Reflection: Parish Focus

“As the goals of Unity, Discipleship, Welcoming Atmosphere, and Small Faith Groups become priorities at St. Thomas the Apostle, we as parishioners become more **satisfied** with our lives, **serv**ing in roles we love, **inviting** others to share in our faith journey and **giving**.”

