



DISCIPLES IN MISSION

An Evangelization Experience

St. Anne's Experience of Faith Year I...2007

Presentation of Goal I

“Go and Make Disciples”

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.*

This goal calls Catholics to continue to hear the Good News at ever-present levels. The call to holiness, given to every Catholic through Baptism, consecrates each one to God and to the service of the Kingdom. This deepening of faith, in holiness, fosters a desire to involve others in that faith, until God will be “all in all” in a transformed world.

The strategy of this goal is to deepen the sense of Scripture and sacrament that Catholics will pray more fully and, with a greater understanding of Christ's call, live as disciples at home, at work, and in today's many cultural settings. This goal also seeks greater openness to physical, mental, and cultural diversity among Catholics.

Here at St. Anne's, for our first of three years involved in the Disciples in Mission parish renewal process, there were ten small groups who met weekly during the six weeks of Lent. These groups included a group of our teenagers and a family group with their small children. A total of 112 participants were involved in these groups and a number of parishioners were leaders for the first time. Lent certainly became for them an inspiring opportunity to share their experience of faith and tell their stories of the wonders God is doing in the live...Good News, for sure!

On May 5th of last year, we conducted our Parish Reflection Day. It was an opportunity for all to come together and look at where St. Anne's stands in light of Goal I mentioned above and just what objectives we might adopt to deepen our experience of that goal. Below are the two objectives along with their specific strategies that were gleaned from the participation at our Reflection Day.

- 1 To foster Small Christian Learning Communities that will provide on-going education to all parishioners in St. Anne's Parish Community.
 - Bible Study, Lecture Series, Teaching Masses, Study Groups, Catholic Faith Handbook, Monthly Tops, Book Club or Discussion Groups
 - Implement greater use of technology using SA's website to establish Chat Rooms, Forums, Calendar, Prayer Accessibility, Videos, CD's.

- 2 To foster an appreciation of the presence of Christ in the Eucharist and all the sacraments, the sacred signs of our Catholic life as well as fostering an even deeper sense of prayer among our Catholic people.
 - Hosting Retreats, Renewals, Marriage Encounter, Witnessing at Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Prayer Booklets.
 - Implement greater use of technology using SA's website to establish Chat Rooms, Forums, Calendar, Prayer Accessibility, Videos, CD's.

Each of the parish organizations will be presented with a report of our first year's experience of Disciples in Mission and invite them to plan their commission's or group's activities for the upcoming year in light of this report. Many have already begun to implement specific activities into their yearly calendar in an effort to support our parish's two areas of interest.

For your own information, a detailed account of our Parish Reflection Day responses are also included in this report. Please feel free to contact any members of St. Anne's Parish Disciples in Mission Team for additional information or to answer any question. They are:

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1 a). What does goal #1 mean to you?

- *Sharing faith in an excited manner*
- *Heightened awareness of gifts and brought them into other aspects of life...people at work*
- *Want to share, remember I'm Catholic*
- *Invited kids' friends to church (non-practicing)...one kid felt moved by Mass---need to reach out, ask, people are hungry...brought some people to talk about faith*
- *At work conversations about Bible, church, faith, debates...some said, "I don't need to go to Mass"...email prayers to each other*
- *Some workplaces can't talk about religion, can be sued for talking about religion*
- *Being excited to share at work when someone brings it up, makes it easier.*
- *Celebrate diversity at work...different holidays able to share religions differences at work...5 Golden Rings presentation*
- *Schools are secular...no religion or diversity*
- *People are hungry for faith*
- *Feels good when we invite others to share*

- *Not always comfortable or politically correct*
- *Want to do it, not always sure how*

b) What do you value most about your Catholic faith:

- *Our faith*
- *Universality*
- *Structured*
- *Re-enacting of Last Supper... Eucharist*
- *Traditions, intimacy w/ Christ, Blessed Mother, Holy Spirit, God the Father*
- *Following Christ through the sacraments*
- *Morals and values*
- *The fact that we have a constancy and the church teaches the same everywhere, even in different languages.*
- *The Eucharist is utmost, we can receive it daily, some churches have it only monthly*
- *Our Eucharist has so much scripture, music, the Eucharist, etc.*
- *The church values life...from conception to end of life... Catholics are leaders of Pro-Life*
- *Catholics are helped in our understanding of ethics/morals because of our teaching from church leaders.*
- *We know that we have forgiveness through Sacrament of Penance.*
- *Informed conscience...The Catholic Catechism teaches us Catholic theology*

d) What are some clear signs that our parishioners are living in Jesus:

- *Large participation in church functions*
- *Enthusiasm of youth group*
- *Happiness and security in people*
- *Participation in events (strong core group of people volunteering)*
- *We try to be friendly and caring...St. Anne's has a reputation of being a welcoming community...the college students feel welcome*
- *The RCIA program is very successful, and the parish family is very friendly toward them.*

d) In what ways do we freely share our faith with others:

- *Daily kind acts to others...even strangers*
- *Standing up for what's right*
- *Share our faith differently depending on audience*
- *Comfort level not always the same...people are in different places*
- *Talk about difference in faith w/ others*
- *Reaching out to others who are going through tough times, grieving, etc....Prayer line...Prayers of the faithful*

2. Most effective ways we are achieving this now?

- *Welcoming*

- *Senior lunch*
- *Food Pantry*
- *Christmas baskets*
- *Disciples in Mission faith sharing groups...structure---having the goal each week to work on*
- *Scouts*
- *Music ministry blossomed*
- *Many active groups, KOC, Family Life Ministry*
- *Youth ministry*
- *Summer Festival*
- *VBS*
- *Adoration*
- *Hundred of kids in religious education*
- *Gorham Marketplace*
- *Ecumenical participation*
- *Giving Tree*
- *Theology of the Body tobministries.com (Steve Pokorny)*
- *Christophers West...video Bible study (Cathedral uses-diocese owned)*

3. On a scale of 1 - 7 where are we in achieving goal #1?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
 (two groups said 4, and two said 5)