

**Status Report on the Pastoral Plan adopted in 2008 by  
St. Margaret Mary Parish 09/15/2011**

**GOAL #1 - Expand efforts in areas of Evangelization and Word  
for youth.**

Objectives:

a) **By May, 2008, a youth ministry plan will be implemented for 3 separate age groups: elementary school, middle school, high school. The plans will be updated annually.** *Parish School of Religion (PSR) program for Pre-K through 5th grade is well organized. In 2010 the Edge program for middle school and Life Teen for high school students was implemented as a joint venture of the Parkersburg parishes, utilizing our Parish Activity Center. Joint programs for the Vacation Bible School have been held for three years. Retreats were offered by the National Evangelization Team for middle and high school students. A bridge between students from public and Catholic schools should be formed and increased participation in Life Teen/Edge is desired.*

b) **Maintain effective and varied communication with youth via internet, phone tree, suggestion box, prayer chain, etc.** *The "Youth News" in the bulletin has been a great addition. Better communication with our teens and their parents, especially via email and facebook, is needed. Advertising at PCHS should occur utilizing any school newsletters and a 'blast' email system. Personal invitations to any teens in the 6-12 grade age range are needed.*

c) **By January, 2008, begin celebrating a monthly youth mass incorporating youth in varied liturgical roles and youth music.** *Youth Masses for the area are occurring on a quarterly basis at St. Monica at times specifically designated as a youth Mass. Teens need to be visible to the larger parish at regular Mass times as Eucharist Ministers, lectors, ushers, greeters, etc. There should be regular Masses where all roles are filled by teens, but they should also be put on the regular rotation of ministers.*

d) **Achieve 50% confirmation class active participation in church ministry by Fall, 2008.** *There was no Confirmation class last year. At the end of Confirmation they should be informed of what ministries are available to them and they should fill out a survey stating where they would be interested in serving. Those should be given to people in charge of those ministries and follow up should be made to assure that the teens are serving in those roles. Also, an effort should be made to include the newly Confirmed teens in a trip over the summer with the teens currently in LTE to build fellowship.*

e) **Recognize the accomplishments of our youth during mass, on the website, in the Gathering Space, etc.** *This has not been done but should be.*

**GOAL #2 - Expand efforts in areas of Evangelization and Word  
for adults.**

Objectives:

a) **Establish a permanent committee on Evangelization by Feb. 1, 2008.** *Probably not needed given recent growth in Adult Education sessions*

b) **Create a forum to discuss modern topics and publicize it.** *Sessions on living wills, annulment were presented. Recent Lenten series was well attended. Transition to New Roman Missal is in planning stage. Seminars could be offered for adult groups with special needs (singles, parents with very young children, ...)*

c) **Establish a formal adult religious education program** *Several adult ed evening programs were offered by Meg Watzek and Fr. Bekeh. Sessions for adults have become part of PSR and VBS. A full schedule was offered for 2009-10. A Lenten Series in 2011 was well attended. We need to minister to young families with children.*

d) **Establish an outreach to C&E Catholics.** *A session was presented by Deacon John Hannah but no follow-up resulted. Something more needs to be done*

e) **Re-establish a program of small faith-based communities.** There are only 1-2 communities that currently still exist. There is no current leadership in this area. There are a number of ministries which resemble a SBCC like a Bible Study group, Stitchers and the AIM group for recent RCIA participants. Home based groups could give participants the opportunity for personal evangelization.

**GOAL #3 - Increase Service opportunities, participation, recognition and support.**

Objectives:

a) **Create a survey and distribute to parishioners to identify needs and opportunities for new service ministries.** Did not occur. No clear consensus that it is needed

b) **Assess needs of current service ministries and make plans to meet those needs.** In response to the question "What do we do if someone is in need of food or clothes and those offices are not open" a list of contact data for area help organizations was developed and placed in key areas. There is a need for organized group of grounds maintenance volunteers. Parishioners need to be informed that monetary donations to 'Matthew 25' go to 3 ministries: food cupboard, clothes closet, social concerns. Parishioners could be encouraged to bring food for an entire meal or an entire day.

c) **Increase participation and recognition of our service ministries via improved parish communication efforts.** Generic and specific thank you's do appear in bulletin. Parish needs may need to be announced from pulpit in addition to being listed in the bulletin so congregation 'hears' them.

**GOAL #4 - Enhance all 7 elements of parish life by improving communication.**

Objectives:

a) **Improve the Bulletin to reflect the vibrant nature of our Parish.** Significant improvements have been made, including the cover and the quality of inserts.. Suggested further improvements include weekly parish ministry highlights (covering all of them over

time), library features and "From the Pastor's Desk" and elimination of inaccurate or out-of-date items.

b) **Develop ways to receive feedback from Parishioners.** One of the pages on our parish web site currently allows submission of comments, requests and suggestions but is rarely used. A suggestion box is now in the gathering space, but needs to be publicized.

c) **Expand internal (within the parish) communications.** With the acquisition of our Parish Activity Center (PAC), various methods have been used to process requests for utilization of parish facilities with all facilities reservations processed through the parish office. There are still some problems with double booking of spaces. Liaisons between the Finance Council and Pastoral Council and between parish ministries and Pastoral Council have been established. The Parish Mission Statement has been inserted into the books in the pews. A parish team manager has been hired with the expectation of improving communication.

c) **Expand the use of technology and the media to improve communications.** A parish resource guide and a recent update have been published. Electronic calendars to identify events of interest to our parishioners and all events using parish facilities were developed. These may be viewed on our web site but have yet to be used. The calendars need to be kept up to date and some staff training done. Up-to-date information now on our website includes weekly bulletins, descriptions and contact info for all of our ministries, food cupboard needs, special event news, all documents related to pastoral council, sound tracks of many of our adult ed sessions, library information. Could use a Facebook page maintained by the parish as a good outreach for busy people.

e) **Implement external (community) communications.** No organized process has been established. Banners from our parking lots were displayed on Market Street as part of Vacation Bible School; RCIA Banner on PAC fence has generated some inquiries; outside groups using PAC do advertise their events. Parish has provisional license for a Catholic Radio station in the area and will likely work with the St Paul station in Charleston.