



Vision In Action - VIA

Meeting held May 22, 2010

Attending: Carlos Herrera, Ellen Vissers, Ernesto Gonzalez, Fr. Bill Hoffman, Greg Pethan, James Zimmer, Larrie Brazner, Nancy Bourassa, Sara Buscher.

Vision In Action
improving St. Therese Parish
via

- Hands-on involvement
- Stewardship of time, talent & treasure
- Listening and doing

Next meeting:
June 19 - 9am
(3rd Saturday
of the month)

1. Opening Prayer was said by acting chairperson Nancy Bourassa.

2. Our guest speaker was Mary Ann Otto from the diocese, talking to us about Stewardship. During introductions we each told what we loved about St. Therese Parish.

- Our demographics: 60% Hispanic or Micronesian; 40% Anglo.
- Stewardship consists of Prayer, Service and Sharing.
- The basis for stewardship is that everything we have is a gift from God. The gifts are ours to use and give back.
- Stewardship begins with hospitality
- Focus on gratitude for all we have been given
- Prayer service sharing
- Focus on service

Prayer - measure by increase in Mass attendance, rosaries, Eucharistic adoration, etc.

Service - Where is your talent / your gift? Constantly looks for others' gifts and point them out:
"You are positive, open, good at _____; we need you to _____."

Sharing (financially) - Help people to understand they have a need to give - conversion experience
People step up and give to a NEED.

If people aren't coming to church they need to get pulled in: "We need you to worship with us."
(Track attendance by use of envelopes.)

Discussion about the different views of the Hispanics - they will give to a specific need, but are mainly used to coming to a self-funded church to receive services. They may prefer to do fundraisers rather than tithe. Have them get involved, use their talents.

Set for June - a series of talks to the Hispanics about giving back generously to the parish.

- Idea: post Father Bill's weekend homily on the web site
- More Ideas: Give out some kind of budget sheet. Gave classes a couple of times a year about budgeting (Try Catholic Charities or FISC)
- Establish a list of parish needs, so if people can't contribute financially they could fix / paint / mow the lawn, etc. instead.
- The diocese sent out a packet of information about the economic downturn last fall. Fr. Bill should have gotten one. Lots of ideas in there. Get on Mary Ann's email list to also get info.

Convoy of Hope coming August 14 to Menasha (Midway Rd. near UW)
quotes from www.convoyofhope.com:

Community Outreach

Each year in the United States we hold up to 50 community events with the help of thousands of volunteers who serve tens of thousands of guests. At each event free groceries, job and health fairs, and activities for children are provided. In doing so, volunteers are given an opportunity to connect with members of their community, and guests are shown love and respect regardless of age, race, physical appearance, or spiritual condition.

Our Guest of Honor Principle

We take pride in our Guest of Honor principle. Our goal at every outreach is to let every recipient know he or she is valued and respected. Every aspect of our outreaches are based on this principle. During an outreach all areas of service demonstrate this principle. We unconditionally love and accept each guest without regard to age, race, physical appearance, or spiritual condition.

In one tent there will be representatives from multiple service organizations: LEAVEN, St. Vincent de Paul, Catholic Charities, etc. There will be a medical tent; free groceries; free haircuts.

We need to publicize this in the bulletin. Christ the Rock started this in our area....

- Many Hispanics are just scraping by, but also - many elderly on fixed incomes are just scraping by.
- Set one goal in each area: Prayer, Service, Sharing
Make them accomplishable goals. Set up a plan for a year.
- **Most important: the committee needs to pray together**
Pray for ourselves and for our community
Committee should go online and read the 1992 Bishops statement on Stewardship (USCCB online)

Promote

- Gratitude

How do you want to promote? Quote in bulletin? Petitions in book?
Write GRATEFUL cards and turn them in at the beginning of Mass?
Tell your neighbor something you're grateful for?

- Hospitality

Socials to get Hispanics & Anglos together
Fun!! Celebratory!
Find the right people to be Welcomers -- "You have a gift for _____. You'd be a good Welcomer."

- Prayer

Everything we do we need to put in the context of prayer.
Find a tagline that we can use for the year: "Grounded in Gratitude"

- Service

How do I use my talents for the good of the parish?

3. Stewardship Planning

We (VIA) need to make a plan for the year incorporating Convoy of Hope-type services, financial helps. Some of the things we talked about today.

Pray about someone you could invite to help us work on this. Give them timelines and guidelines -- ASK!
--Gift Discernment --

Ask younger people, then HEAR them. When new people come in things will change - and that's OK. Allow them to take ownership and take the project in a new direction. Be open to new ideas.

4. Crown Ministries - Fr. Bill

Colleen at St. Bernard's has approached us about Crown Ministries. It is about stewardship and personal finances - an approach to financial giving. The introductory session will be at St. Pius; and our new deacon Tony Abts is going to attend. Phil Lenahan's "7 Steps to Becoming Financially Free" is the Catholic version.

5. Invitation to PC cookout on June 29 - 6:00 pm

Parish Council is inviting Finance Council and VIA members to a cookout and meeting on Tuesday, June 29th. We will be looking at the diocesan visioning process and sharing our vision for St. Therese.

6. Next meeting June 19 - 9am (3rd Saturday of the month this time because Fr. Bill will be gone on the 4th)

Ellen will bring a treat.

Minutes by Ellen Vissers

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Treat sign up (bring a treat to the VIA meeting)

June 19 - Ellen
July 25 - Kathy & Andy
Aug. 28 - need volunteer

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Treat sign up (bring a treat to the VIA meeting)

Jan. 30 - Bill Kime
Mar 6 - Greg & Jean
April 24 - Sara
May 22 - Dick
June 19 - Ellen
July 25 - Kathy & Andy
August -
Oct. 2 - James
Oct. 23 -
Nov. 20 - Mary & Bert
Dec. 18 -