



Vision In Action

improving St. Therese Parish
via

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

**Next meeting:
Aug. 29th - 9am**

Vision In Action - VIA

Meeting held July 26, 2009

Attending: Andy Somers, Bert & Mary Wiegand, Bill Kime, Carlos Herrera, Dick Schreiter, Ellen Vissers, Ernesto Gonzalez, Fr. Bill Hoffman, Greg & Jean Pethan, James Zimmer, Larrie Brazner, Sara Buscher.

Opening prayer - was said by Fr. Bill.

Approval of Minutes - approved as published.

1. Phone Tree follow up - Greg Pethan

In process – we have the software, now need to transfer the info (names, phone numbers, email addresses). We are loading the software at this point. When it's up and running, we'll do a test by calling the VIA committee members, and emailing them.

When this is fully installed Fr. Bill will make an announcement in church to tell people about it, and to expect a call using it. If it's up and running by the parish annual meeting on Aug. 20th, he will talk about it then.

2. "Business Cards" for collecting email addresses and directing folks to the website.

They are printed and ready to go. Consensus is to hold up on that until the Phone Tree system is working - about 2 weeks?

3. Flat Screen TV for back of church, price quote – Bill Kime

Bill talked to Seuss Electronics and the system is quite a bit more costly than we had hoped. We had thought that it could be done for about \$2500, now it's in the \$8400 - \$9400 range. Discussion followed on how we want to proceed with this project, if at all. Consensus was that this is too expensive to justify the parish paying for at this point. **Bill Kime volunteered to write up a Wish List and put something in the bulletin to see if we could get a sponsor.**

4. We need to communicate about VIA, what we are, what we do.

Maybe a regular column in the bulletin? Announce that a suggestion box is there? "Listening" is part of our mission statement – how can parishioners communicate with us? How do they know we exist and what we're trying to do?

Bill is writing something up that will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting - and those reports will be printed and available before, and during, the annual meeting.

5. Review of Terry Thorne's presentation to us in March.

What Take Aways did people remember from his talk?

- Small Home Churches - like Renew Groups
 - (The diocese has a new program: Christ Renews His Parish that is being used successfully. It starts with a retreat for a small group, then like ripples it multiplies out in other small groups.)
- Focus on Spiritual - They meet regularly in homes for scripture study and sharing
- Stewardship - money, activities, participating
- Oversight / Correcting your brother / Brother's keeper. Buy in or leave.
- Greeters & welcoming. Color coded lanyards for various leaders.
- Name tags - those with none are new & may need help. Follow up on name tags not used (no-shows.)
- Environmentally friendly, feels supportive, welcoming, feeling of belonging; so people WANT to come.
- Focus on caring for others, make them feel loved, making people feel good.
- Strategic planning. They set a strategy that they wanted to be different from others. They set their vision and went after it.
- Make people feel good, get engaged, make them buy in.
- Training for all
- Focus on Ministries: elderly, children

We are a service, we need to figure out what our "customers" want.

Can our school building be used for that? Can we use it ourselves to serve others, rather than sell it?. Serve our parishioners and the neighborhood.

Future agenda item: brainstorm for ideas on how to use the school building.

“Train the Trainers” - they will pull in others, ripple effect. Person to person is the best way to get others involved.

?? Set up training on soliciting for help/committees/how to communicate, what to say or not say in various situations????

Possible service – elder care transportation

The Senior Center will coordinate volunteer rides to church on Sunday. Would that bring our people, and new people here? And their children?

Christ Renews His Parish - Sr. Anne Arthur and Larrie Brazner attended a seminar on this. Our neighboring parishes rave about it. Should we have someone present this to our group?

Stewardship seminar in Green Bay - Dick S. attended. Presented by a professor from Villanova.

- Must be a welcoming community
- Need a Stewardship **Council**, on the same level as Parish Council and Finance Council. **DO NOT** associate with finance!
- People give money to people and to causes, not to “the church”.
- Increase the spirituality part, make them feel welcomed and part of something larger. Then they will support financially.

Brainstorm Action Items: how to be attractive to parishioners? Focus on needs within, each parish is unique.

For us: elderly ministry, ESL-type activities. People will talk about that. Then publicize this, and pat ourselves on the back for the good things we do.

Brainstorming session followed, with members writing ideas on sticky notes. Bill will categorize, then next time we can go over them and develop 2-3 actions items that we (VIA) can tackle.

6. Next meeting on Aug. 22 - Wiegands and Pethans will be gone - reschedule?

7. Outside sign with Mass times -

Rueben does not have time to replace this; **Dick S. will contact the office and look at other alternatives.**

8. Meeting adjourned at 11:05.

Minutes taken by Ellen Vissers