

---

# TRUSTING IN CHRIST: A CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

---

A PASTORAL PLAN FOR EVANGELIZATION FOR THE DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN

## *Implementation Report – Pentecost 2017*

---

### PARISH ACTIONS BY REGION AND COLLABORATIVE ACTIONS

---

---

#### PARISH ACTIONS BY REGION

---

---

##### ASHTABULA

---

- Create a more welcoming community through improving the music ministry and instituting the use of greeters at Mass (Corpus Christi, Conneaut).
- Focused on the stewardship of time and talent at the parish (Our Lady of Peace, Ashtabula).
- Promoted a stewardship appeal at the parish with the support of the Diocesan Office of Stewardship and Development (Our Lady of Peace, Ashtabula).

---

##### COLUMBIANA

---

- Initiated a food give away to local school district families (St. Patrick, Leetonia).
- Initiated the ALPHA program to proclaim the good news in a hospitable environment, focusing on inactive and non-church going participants, resulting in some new active church members (St. Jude, Columbiana and Our Lady of Lourdes, East Palestine - Collaborative).
- Held an evening for married couples in February, Flowers for Mothers' Day in May, and Candy bars for Fathers' Day in June (St. Paul, Salem).
- Organized a Holy Week Retreat for parishioners (Holy Trinity, East Liverpool).
- Reallocated resources to hire a youth minister to coordinate programs for grades 9-12 (St. Jude, Columbiana and Our Lady of Lourdes, East Palestine - Collaborative).

## MAHONING

---

- Affirmed the many active service organizations in the parish, but also recognized the need for more global outreach as a parish (St. Paul, New Middletown).
- Set out to identify the needs of parishioners and people in the neighborhood through direct contact with them (St. Angela Merici, Youngstown).
- Working with the local government to install smoke detectors in homes (St. Columba Cathedral Parish, Youngstown).
- Encourage on-going support of the Dorothy Day House and Café Augustine, including material support and active parishioner participation (Holy Family, Poland).
- Initiated a community meal program inviting the community for free food and fellowship (St. Christine, Youngstown).
- Promoted more joyful congregations through an active welcoming committee, new parishioners listed monthly in the bulletin, greeters at all Masses, and “nametag Sundays” to help parishioners get to know each other (St. Michael, Canfield).
- Advertised summer faith fiesta in the community, which includes activities, food, a car show, and faith testimonies (St. Joseph, Austintown).
- Developed a ministry book which clarifies the mission of each ministry and provides contact information as well as upcoming events. Booklet distributed to new members and available for current members to use (Christ the Good Shepherd, Campbell).
- Promoted an evangelization tent at the parish festival to reach out to the community (Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Basilica/St. Anthony of Padua, Youngstown).
- Expanded the ministry of hospitality, including welcoming people at Mass, parish council members personally contacting new parishioners, and showcasing ministries in the bulletin (Holy Family, Poland).
- Increased communication with the parish and community through an updated parish website, a new parish app, and more creative use of the parish sign (St. Christine, Youngstown).
- Planning family celebratory events for the parish anniversary and encouraging parishioners to invite family members and friends who are not currently active church members (St. Edward, Youngstown).
- Identified six specific target groups to focus on and provide support and programming for people who are on the margins of the community (St. Michael, Canfield).
- Provides a support group for parents with children who have special needs, but also identified the need for more support for people affected by divorce, drug abuse, and sexual orientation (St. Paul, New Middletown).
- Established family life events, such as Christmas in July, movie night, and outdoor food and fellowship opportunities (St. Columba Cathedral Parish, Youngstown).
- Increased outreach to various groups such as a prayer support group for people with family members suffering from addictions, support for families with special needs, and an audio looping system which allows people with hearing aids to hook directly into the sound system in the church (St. Christine, Youngstown).

- Invites children to participate in appropriate roles at Mass and provides a meal afterward for fellowship (St. Edward, Youngstown).
- Increased youth participation in visible roles, including recruiting college and high school members of Pastoral Council, and actively inviting high school students to be lectors and Eucharistic ministers (St. Charles, Boardman).
- Counted Mass attendance weekly to provide accurate information on Sacramental participation (St. Paul, New Middletown).
- Formation of liturgical ministers includes their responsibility to be the light of Christ to others during Mass and throughout all aspects of their life (St. Joseph, Austintown).
- Promotes a variety prayer and formation experiences, especially the Holy Door during the Year of Mercy and the Exhibit on Eucharistic miracles (Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Basilica/St. Anthony of Padua, Youngstown).
- Prays for each parish of the diocese in turn throughout the year (St. Columba Cathedral Parish, Youngstown).
- Commissions publicly the Eucharistic Ministers to those who are sick, homebound, or in the hospital on the Feast of Corpus Christi (Holy Family, Poland).
- Established women’s small group fellowship open to the community that includes prayer, praise, discussion, and faith sharing (St. Joseph, Austintown).
- Established collaborative youth and young adult ministries (Christ the Good Shepherd, Campbell and St. Angela Merici, Youngstown – Collaborative).
- Hired a part-time Pastoral Associate of Evangelization (Christ the Good Shepherd, Campbell).
- Developed a team to research alternative forms of parish leadership (St. Angela Merici, Youngstown).

## PORTAGE

---

- In addition to ongoing efforts supporting Catholic Charities and emergency assistance programs, currently raising awareness about the addiction epidemic, especially the opioid crisis, by highlighting area programs and events (St. Joseph, Mantua).
- Planned evening prayer and “fireside chat” Q & A sessions around the fire pit on parish grounds with the pastor and deacon (St. Joseph, Mantua).
- Formed an evangelization team with initiatives to partner current families with new parishioners including an invitation to dinner, a “welcome back” letter to inactive parishioners (3 people responded), and a parish retreat advertised to the local community (St. Ambrose, Garrettsville).
- Creation of a Stewardship Committee to increase active participation of the laity in parish life and ministries (St. Peter of the Field, Rootstown).
- Revitalized the welcoming of new parishioners, including a new welcome brochure, a letter from the pastor, and parishioner couples contacting new parishioners personally (St. Patrick, Kent).
- Sent a personal letter and card from parish council members to all inactive members to initiate conversation about their thoughts and needs (St. Joseph, Mantua).
- Established a parish group for widows, widowers, and senior singles that meets monthly for social, spiritual, and service opportunities (St. Joseph, Randolph).

- Formed a wellness committee that surveyed the parish and used the results to plan programs to address healthy lifestyles and stress management, including cycling, hiking groups, and walking groups (University Newman Center, Kent).
- Began an “Eat, Pray, and Give” program during Lent before the Stations of the Cross/Divine Mercy Chaplet prayer service to offer food and encourage donations of food and personal supplies to the community (St. Ambrose, Garrettsville).
- Invite and encourage high school and college-age parishioners to serve in liturgical roles (St. Patrick, Kent).
- Offer communal penance services four times a year (St. Joseph, Randolph).
- Held a “Christ Renews His Parish” Women’s Renewal the past three years and have plans for a Men’s Renewal in the future (St. Ambrose, Garrettsville).
- Held a combined Parish Mission in honor of St. John Neumann, who visited the area in 1841, as well as combined CCD program for both parishes (St. Joseph, Randolph and St. Peter of the Fields, Rootstown – Collaborative).

---

#### STARK

- Established a program to connect older parishioners who need help with yard work or small repairs with parishioners willing to volunteer their time and expertise (Christ the Servant, Canton).
- Established a relationship with a local soup kitchen to provide ongoing volunteer support and non-perishable food items through a weekly food drive at the parish (Christ the Servant, Canton).
- Sent a letter to inactive parishioners to reach out to them and update parish records (Regina Coeli, Alliance).
- Used a written and on-line survey of parishioners to identify and address areas of need, such as outreach to inactive parishioners, physical and security concerns within the parish, and a re-evaluation of Sacramental Programs (St. Joan of Arc, Canton).
- Planned a new member lunch, along with a stewardship fair (St. Joseph, Alliance).
- Developed small faith sharing groups, which were advertised through pulpit announcements and an invitation card (Ss. Philip and James, Canal Fulton).
- Use of the ALPHA Program to discuss faith with a target audience of non-active Catholics and the unchurched, which increased interest in RCIA, resulted in greater Mass attendance among participants, and created collaboration opportunities among parish groups who support ALPHA through meal preparation (Ss. Philip & James, Canal Fulton).
- Organized a welcoming committee to personally welcome new members and to recruit more greeters for Mass (Christ the Servant, Canton).
- Began the ALPHA Program in January with excellent results, including 28 parishioners on the team and 32 participants. Many of the participants were already Catholic who renewed their faith and are now actively inviting others. A few of the non-Catholic participants have begun exploring the possibility of becoming Catholic (Little Flower, Middlebranch).
- Established a senior ministry offering bus trips, social gatherings, fundraisers, speakers and holiday celebrations (Basilica of St. John and St. Peter, Canton – Collaborative).

- Held events to gather parishioners for fellowship, including a wine & cheese evening in the summertime, a parish picnic, and a Halloween party (Regina Coeli, Alliance).
- Organized a parish picnic for the region (St. Joseph, St. Barbara, St. Mary, Massillon – Collaborative).
- Organized support for family members of deceased parishioners (St. Joseph, Massillon).
- Educated parishioners about the annulment process and plans to reorganize and revitalize the divorce support group (St. Michael, Canton).
- Established an outreach program to contact non-active registered parishioners (St. Mary, Massillon).
- Held monthly prayer services last year as well as weekly Stations of the Cross during Lent. Each prayer service included an outreach project, connecting worship and Christian service (St. Joseph, Maximo).
- Modified the Mass schedule so it could be covered by one priest between the two parishes and also fit the needs of the parishes. Started by collecting and publishing data on Mass attendance (St. Louis, Louisville and Sacred Heart of Mary, Harrisburg – Collaborative).
- Coordinate volunteers to staff a welcome center after each Mass with parish information. Visitors are acknowledged from the pulpit and volunteers personally follow up with them during the week (St. Michael, Canton).
- Held a yearlong adult formation program on prayer through art (Holy Spirit, Uniontown).
- Combined events between the two parishes, including adult religious education and a parish picnic (St. Louis, Louisville and Sacred Heart of Mary, Harrisburg – Collaborative).
- Plan on young adult nights with pizza, a movie, and a discussion of a faith topic that addresses some aspect of the move (St. Joseph, Alliance).
- Plan to hold focus group meetings with public high school students not participating in youth ministry to learn how to better minister to their needs (St. Michael, Canton).
- Promoted a capital campaign and facilities improvement projects, and the parishioners have responded well (St. Paul, North Canton).
- Created a strategic plan through results from a parish survey, research on parish leadership, and visits to other parishes to learn best practices (St. Mary, Massillon).
- Plan to expand, grow, and foster open communication within the parish and with the greater community and to realign parish structures to adopt emerging models of parish Leadership (St. Mary, Massillon).
- Developed a group of parishioners to study alternative forms of parish leadership and how to empower more lay leadership and participation at the parish (Holy Spirit, Uniontown).
- Invites young men to a vocations dinner at the parish to promote a culture of vocations (St. Joseph, Alliance).
- Assembled leaders from parishes in the region to discuss ministry and mass time collaboration. Various ministries, such as RCIA, Youth Ministry, and Confirmation are collaborative. (St. Joseph, St. Mary, St. Barbara, Massillon, Ss. Philip & James, Canal Fulton, Holy Family, Navarre - Collaborative).
- To promote a culture of vocations, seminarians speak at Mass, in the parish school, and during religious education programs (St. Paul, North Canton).

- Created a successful, new parish website, but marketing the parish and events is still a challenge especially with social media and advertising in the community (St. Paul, North Canton).
- Attend Parish Council Meetings of local parishes to evaluate and share best practices for ministry in the region (St. Mary, Massillon - Collaborative).

---

## TRUMBULL

---

- Plan to have a float in the local community parade to celebrate the parish anniversary (St. Stephen, Niles).
- Established a “Pew Packing Sunday” event where each person invites a non-practicing Catholic friend or family member to church and includes a reception after Mass with refreshments and information on parish organizations (St. Thomas the Apostle, Vienna).
- Initiative to make the parish grounds more welcoming and the church building more accessible (Our Lady of Perpetual Help, McDonald).
- Established a Bereavement Committee who attend calling hours and funerals, lead pray for the deceased as necessary, and provide outreach to the family of the deceased (St. Stephen, Niles).
- Hosted an evening on annulments to offer a clear understanding of the process (St. Rose, Girard).
- Plan to host a “Come back and meet the parish” night to reach out to inactive parishioners (St. Rose, Girard).
- Identified and trained 12 sponsor couples to meet with engaged couples (St. Patrick, Hubbard).
- Established a Liturgy Committee with the assistance of the Office of Worship, including liturgical support, outreach to homebound parishioners, and the planning and implementation of monthly parish activities during the Year of Mercy (St. Stephen, Niles).
- Provides for the Sacrament of Confession before all Masses to increase participation (Queen of the Holy Rosary, Vienna).
- Focused on improving the worship experience, including a greater focus on hospitality and welcoming, and the church speakers have been upgraded (St. Patrick, Hubbard).
- Initiated greeters before Mass and increased the versatility of the music program (Our Lady of Perpetual Help, McDonald).
- Organized a Vacation Bible School (four evenings) for the members of the parish and the greater community (St. Stephen, Niles).
- Highlight a different ministry each week at the information table in the vestibule and spotlight a parishioner once a month for their ministry to the church (St. Thomas the Apostle, Vienna).
- Communicates regularly to parishioners about parish finances to encourage parish support (St. Rose, Girard).
- Developed a new parish website to inform parishioners and the community about upcoming events, especially celebration of the 165<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the parish (St. Stephen, Niles).
- Developed a new website as well as facebook and twitter accounts to increase visibility online (St. Patrick, Hubbard).
- Continue to identify, promote, and support current ministries and their lay leaders (St. Patrick, Hubbard).

## COLLABORATIVE ACTIONS

---

- Alpha program to proclaim the good news in a hospitable environment, focusing on inactive and non-church going participants, resulting in some new active church members (St. Jude, Columbiana and Our Lady of Lourdes, East Palestine - Collaborative).
- Reallocation of resources to hire a youth minister to coordinate programs for grades 9-12 (St. Jude, Columbiana and Our Lady of Lourdes, East Palestine - Collaborative).
- Collaborative youth and young adults ministries (Christ the Good Shepherd, Campbell and St. Angela Merici, Youngstown – Collaborative).
- Attend Parish Council Meetings of local parishes to evaluate and share best practices for ministry in the region (St. Mary, Massillon - Collaborative).
- Senior ministry offering bus trips, social gatherings, fundraisers, speakers and holiday celebrations (Basilica of St. John and St. Peter, Canton – Collaborative).
- After collecting and publishing data on Mass attendance, modified Mass schedule that could be covered by one priest and also fits the needs of the parishes (St. Louis, Louisville and Sacred Heart of Mary, Harrisburg – Collaborative)
- Combined adult religious education and parish picnic (St. Louis, Louisville and Sacred Heart of Mary, Harrisburg – Collaborative).
- Organized a parish picnic for the region (St. Joseph, St. Barbara, St. Mary, Massillon – Collaborative).
- Assembled leaders from parishes in a region to discuss ministry and mass time collaboration. Various ministries, such as RCIA, Youth Ministry, and Confirmation are collaborative. (St. Joseph, St. Mary, St. Barbara, Massillon, Ss. Philip & James, Canal Fulton, Holy Family, Navarre - Collaborative).
- Held a combined Parish Mission in honor of St. John Neumann, who visited the area in 1841, as well as combined CCD program for both parishes (St. Joseph, Randolph and St. Peter of the Fields, Rootstown – Collaborative).