

First Objective

Description : First we wish to put forth a clear understanding and description of our goals. Our overall goal is to build a stronger, more loving and caring community. A step toward that goal is to become a more hospitable parish. First a quote from the Acts of the Apostles about community.

Acts, 2 : 42 - 47

“⁴²They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one’s need. ⁴⁶Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.”

The early Christians were challenged by the secular world and so took to community life to help them follow Christ. Our world also challenges us to live as Christ would have us live. Like our sisters and brothers in the early Church we look toward our community at Christ the King to help us “put on Christ”. So that when events happen in our lives, things which are sorrowful or joyful; we turn to Christ the King so that we may walk the way of Christ together, growing closer to God through each other.

Measurement :

This first objective is more of a clarification of what we are trying to do. This can be decided on during the meeting tonight. A measurement would potentially be whether or not we can agree with what is written above.

Second Objective

Description : Choosing to grow in hospitality to help us to become a closer community. A quote from Matthew seems to help here.

Matthew, 25 : 34 - 40

“³⁴Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you ill or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'”

Another quote from Romans says it quite succinctly :

Romans, 15 : 7

⁷Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God.

A hospitable parish is one where people can feel comfortable. This is seen as an important first step toward a stronger, more loving community. Another way of putting this is that hospitality is part of the process of becoming a closer community.

Measurement :

This second objective is also more a clarification of what we are trying to do. This can also be decided on during the meeting tonight. This objective would be considered a shorter term goal, with a timeline of six months to a year.

Third Objective

Description : Build community inside the Pastoral council first. Use this small community as a model to bring to the larger community. Some suggestions :

- 1.) Make name plates for everyone on the council to put before them during the meetings.
- 2.) Provide a way of knowing each council member through social activities (team building, if you will). A first start could be refreshments before the meeting. A council member would volunteer to provide some food and drink (cookies and coffee?) for each meeting. Nothing too spectacular.
- 3.) Institute a series of icebreaker questions for each meeting such that people will be able to share a bit about themselves in a safe, non-threatening way. Suggested questions could range from discussion of family members, interesting/odd occurrences, fun trips or anything that will get us to feel more comfortable with each other.
- 4.) Contact parish council members who do not attend regularly. Find out if there is anything the matter. Ask them if they are still interested in being on the council but make it clear that they are not being pushed or threatened. Just ask them to say what is in their hearts. This action will have two effects, firstly we as a council will be acting in a very hospitable way to find out what is happening. The second effect will be a clearer understanding of who the council can count on to attend meetings and become more active. This second effect should also lead to the council becoming more effective since the end result will be that we have people who can be counted on to attend meetings on a regular basis.
- 5.) Develop a mentoring program for new council members, with older members matching up with new members. Information will be passed about how the council works and items such as the last six months meeting minutes will be shared.
- 6.) The council should make a better effort to communicate more clearly among our members. Part of our growth toward a closer, more hospitable community will include working together as a family. Examples of poor communication include the email that went around about pastoral council members and sacristens. Communication works both ways. If someone has said something that is not clear, those who do not understand have a responsibility to ask for clarification. Possibly we can make it a point to regularly ask the council at large if there are any questions.

Measurement:

This objective is difficult to measure. Easy enough to make nameplates and bring cookies but these are just steps in a process. It seems that meeting people for 2 hours once a month is a difficult way to get to know them. Perhaps we need to spend more time together?

If we decide on carrying out the three suggestions above we can ask for volunteers tonight to take on the three (or more or less) tasks and so be able to report back to the council for the March meeting.

Fourth Objective

Description : Connect to the other groups at Christ the King by forming liasons between the pastoral council and all of the various groups. Liasons would communicate (email, phone, conversation after church, etc...) with groups on a regular basis. Such an activity would increase communication between the pastoral council and the rest of the parish thereby building a more closely knit community. The pastoral council will be more aware of the needs and interests of the community at large and be able to respond as best we can.

We as a council would set aside time during each meeting to listen to these reports (none of which need take more than a minute or two) and discuss how this input can help us to become a closer community.

Measurement :

Liasons would spend some time at the monthly meeting detailing the discussions they have with the groups. We as a council would then spend some time understanding what is needed, what is working and what is not working.

Fifth Objective

Description : Council should show the parish an attitude of enthusiasm, cooperation and also identity. This can be done in many different ways; pastoral members could work with what they feel comfortable doing. Possible suggestions include :

- 1.) Have pastoral council members make the announcements after mass. This should be done on a volunteer basis, if a pastoral council member feels like making the announcements, he or she can meet with the sacristan before mass and ask to be allowed to do so.
- 2.) Have the pastoral council members make personal invitations to parishners to attend a pastoral council meeting. This can also be done during the announcements to the church in general. This way the community can see what we are trying to do.

If such a thing happens we should, of course, go out of our way to make such guests welcome and someone should be detailed to explain to the guests how things are done and what they can expect.

Measurement :

Father Jeff could keep track of how the announcements are working since he generally attends most masses. As for guests attending meetings we can keep track of whether or not people attend.