

St. Michael Catholic Church  
Parish Planning Day

February 15, 2014

Attendees: Steve Teasley, Patti Gutierrez, Janice Sellers, Lisa Durbin, Greg Sugg,  
Michael Coomes, Jenny Glenn, Father Al, Orlando Rivera, Baltazar  
Rafael, Jorge Guarcas, Lidia Perez, Jose Portillo

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**I. Sr. Ethel Marie gave presentation on the Mission of the Church by looking at the Trinity and the Four parts of the creed.**

**II. Small Groups reviewed Parish Survey & discussed the strengths & weaknesses of the St. Michael parish community**

- Strengths: we pull together when we need to, ARISE/LEVANTATE small groups, Religious Ed, Liturgy of the Word with the children in the Spanish mass, people feel welcomed, ministry with the young Hispanic group, people participate in the Spanish music, the parish is like home, it's small, caring and supportive, people are not lost in the crowd, many are involved, we are held accountable by each other, it is peaceful (not a lot of conflict), and diverse
- Weaknesses/Limits: money, space, handicapped accessibility, keeping young people & young families, lack of good opportunities in the area, welcome at the doors can improve (esp. at Spanish mass), disorganized, there are few leaders to share the work, few people take responsibility for the music, most do not tithe

**III. The Large Group discussed our target audiences based on our strengths & limits**

- There is a need to attract (and keep) young adults and young families, so we could make an effort to sponsor activities that they would enjoy (sports leagues, Halloween party, movie nights, etc)
- Since we seen as a welcoming place we should focus efforts on welcoming back fallen away Catholics, especially those previously connected to St. Michael's, or the friends and family of our current members. Maybe we could get info from parishioners and form a group to do home visits to invite people back

**IV. The Large Group Brainstormed Ideas based on our Mission & previous discussion**

- Meal Sharing – create a system for parishioners (Anglo & Hispanic) to provide meals when there is a need: new baby, homebound, sick, surgery, etc
- Offer classes for learning English and Spanish – maybe pair Anglo & Hispanics up to teach each other at the same time
- Community garden
- Activities after Saturday mass –currently most events are on Sunday. Not all parishioners can attend on Sunday
- Movie nights, bingo, dinner theater, cards nights
- Youth field trips such as: ski trip, bowling

- Prayer groups with praise, songs and adoration
- Hold vigils (prayer, meditations throughout the evening) at different times throughout the year: Divine Mercy Sunday, St. Michael Feast Day, etc.
- Offer Eucharistic adoration in the evening
- Encourage more Children & youth to participate at Gasper River (Catholic Camp)
- Stations of the Cross live (acted out)
- Month of Rosaries in May (rotating to different parishioners' homes)
- Classes/Bible Studies separated by ages before Mass.
- Form a musical group with more instruments and formal practices (for Spanish mass)
- More regular meals for community building
- Activities by age
- Open invite in the paper to attract un-churched or fallen away Catholics
- Find ways to come together (as a diverse community)
- Mini retreats/speakers on a regular basis
- Keep up Arise small groups
- Activities for CCD: visit the nursing home, sing, grandparent adoption
- Regular Bilingual masses to build unity & get to know each other
- Monthly leadership meetings to plan together (especially lacking in the Hispanic leadership)
- Leadership development (skills) training

**V. The Large Group choose the first projects to work on but will keep this list to refer to during future Parish Council meetings**

- Hold one community building event every month, rotating Sat. night and Sun. morning. Since the Knights are hosting a free brunch in March on a Sunday morning, the First event is scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6PM.
- Investigate possibilities for English-Spanish “classes” – who is interested, what materials exist, etc.