

St Monica's Parish
Middleton
March 27, 2018

Communications

Increase K of C & CWL content in Parish Bulletin.
More social activities to bring Public in; press release of event afterwards.
Priest in one church; live stream to 2nd church.
Need media relations people to promote church events.
Get message out faster - like new system.
Already using new bulletin for all.
Speak in schools; reinstate Y.C.S.
Bulletin works; One Call Now (x3)
Mostly good now.
Communication can become one-sided, ever community needs their opinion.
See great courses online, e.g. Calvary ideal to spread. I have extra copy.
More communication in each district when someone in our community has a need, such as death, prayers, relative in hospital.
Use music to recruit musician, not traditional hymns. Up-beat music.
Broadcast church services.
Staff to know & inform parish, council more informed, mail-outs of info.
Need directory of parishioners' skills that parishioners can access. We support each other.

Faith Formation

Decentralize things like catechism, sacramental prep so we don't lose sense of family community. (x2)
Free theology training.
ALPHA classes or What is being a Catholic. (x2)
We have no catechism classes because of lack of leadership. What to do?
A lot of resources available (library).
More prayer for Priests and discernment for what God wants.
Rosary once a week.
Bible studies (x2)
Lost children to Greenwood for Sunday School.
Form or look at what others have done to form a "Missionary Unit" or structured group of Valley Missionaries
Feed poor, comfort sick, protect the weak (sell this).
More gatherings & hopefully more participation.
Youth Minister.
Young people to come forward.
More ALPHA in schools, jails. Already asked about this.
Need more Deacons.
Dinner Theatre with religious stories to get people in (I've already done this).

Finances

Pool money to maintain churches.
Shared resources/centralized finances (x)
Shared based on income .
Pool used resources.
Less bank accounts.
One financial council.
Complete transparency on Valley regional finances.
Separate accounting so each community has money for expenses, e.g. heat, lights etc., new roof, cemetery
We have no clue about Parish Finance Structure.
If finances communal, will we have to fundraise for special projects?
What happens to investments when we have on communal Finance Committee?
Form a multi-church fundraising committee, e.g. mega yard sale, etc.
Cost reduced with consolidation.
How much input will local churches have in expenditures.
Cost more to travel.

Graffiti Wall

What's graffiti?
Need more opportunity for youth.
I feel I have no voice.
Need to define K of C, CWL & PPT.
Expand collaboration - broader faith comm., chance to meet new members, more input from Laity, global financing.
Spread clergy across all parishes not just Halifax.
Can CWL & K. of C. meeting be broadcast via Valley Catholic Churches?
Valley Youth Program - increased awareness & participation.

Masses

Video Masses with communion available.
Larger group with less (sic) Better choir.
One Mass in each of 3 churches.
St. Monica's - one Mass per weekend.
Three Masses for three regions.
Yes, flexibility in time of day on rotation.
Sunday Mass.
Only one Mass per week (Sat., Bridgetown; Sun. Middleton).
Only one Mass if priest shortage, our Mass could be on any day of week.
Only travel 30 minutes. (x2)
Only travel 20 minutes, 25 kms.
Reduce down to one Mass on weekend.
One, Sat. or Sun., 30 - 1 hour (sic)
Mass once a week, Sunday only, 30 minutes drive for parishioners/priests.
One; flexible times; 10-15 mins. Parishioners; 10-15 mins. Priests.
In an aging population how far will parishioners be expected to travel?
Need weekly local Masses, travel difficult for seniors.
Need more female input at all levels.
Daily Masses.
Have a 4PM Mass somewhere.
Youth Parish activities.
Structure Car-pooling if needed to get to Mass not in Home Church.
Saturday eve. Mass is important.
St Monica will lose people to Greenwood.
Mass for shut-ins; technology from our Parish that we can get at home.

Physical Structures

Is our Parish house necessary?

Sell unused real estate.

Gathering locations for Mass and coming together as a community.

Church in Middleton, church in Kentville, church in Windsor. (x2)

We need our separate churches.

Three churches equal distances.

Church and Hall.

Structures could be a net loss, need to be used by our community.

Raising funds for repairs.

Central office needs to do a needs assessment to determine renovations, and other things that need to be done at each church and prioritize.

Permit structure for spiritual renewal weekends.

Church that will hold more people, large parking lot, Parish Hall.

Overall cemetery co-ordinator.

Sacraments

Travel for sacrament prep, 20-25 mins.

Travel for sacrament prep, 30 mins. (x6)

Travel for sacrament prep, 30 mins to 1 hour.

Travel for sacrament prep, 30 to 100 kms.

Sacrament prep 30-45 mins depending on time of day.

Those more affluent travel further but others may have trouble.

Reconciliation on Sunday so not have to travel.

Who will administer sacraments or hospitals & shut-ins?

Traveling lay-person for shut-ins or sick.

Staffing and Volunteers

Less people by sharing people.

Less stress on current Priests.

Have a central number but someone local can be called.

We need to keep our Parish office open to have a contact.

Parish secretary (Middleton)...do we lose her?

No change currently.

Volunteers need to know what's expected of them.

Our present volunteers and there are few to take our place.

How to get young people to get involved?

Centralized staff is a positive change.

Collaborations, sharing leadership people.

Need more bottom up not top down leadership. We nourish a tree from its roots.

Need higher level of training (quality), availability of training.

Transportation ministry for elderly.

Rose volunteer for transporting seniors.

Have a regional co-ordinator for volunteers.

Recruit volunteers; youth; structure it, special jacket, music events.

Each parish should have a lay person on the council.

Involve staff more, inform needs for volunteers.

What is expected of volunteers? include staff (update).

Maintain a local parish secretary to allow for local people to have inquiries answered about our community & their needs, e.g. our poor (both physical & spiritual needs).

We need to have a central data base of volunteers, contact list.

Social workers type, people in Acadia do work with church as part of experience training.

Organize a mentoring program (formal facilitator) to mentor volunteers, Deacons, etc.

For ministries of care we need people to co-operate & communicate. Have a resource place to pass along the information.

One Parish office with membership by all communities.

What is Working Well

Masses (x5)

Sacraments

Communications, i.e. One Call, Bulletin (x12)

Flow of Information

Sharing Priests and Deacons (x5)

We have good Priests.

Finances (x3)

Potential Co-ordinator

ALPHA course offered throughout the Valley.

Centralization

Youth

Shared resources

More input from Laity.