Parish Re-Organization

Feedback Session

“I dream of a missionary option, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self preservation!”

- Pope Francis
Purpose of the Session

To take the general concepts of parish re-organization proposed to us by the Archbishop and relate them to our valley region and our individual church community, so that a way forward, based on hope, becomes clear.
Session Overview

- The Archbishop’s message to the faithful
- Round One: opportunities and constraints
- Round Two: Regional parish centralization & collaboration
- Break
- Round Three: Smaller church communities
- Next steps
Personal Renewal

• Becoming Missionary Disciples
• Committing to a deeper conversion by taking up the mission to proclaim Jesus’ Gospel in the modern world
• “Discipleship begins with a personal encounter with Christ and a decision to follow him. Our formation for discipleship offers opportunities and experiences that help foster this encounter and provide the skills and tools necessary to grow in the Christian life.”
Parish Renewal

- 80% of all baptized Catholics no longer practice their faith
- Lower mass attendance and fewer priests points to a need for parish renewal
- Current way of doing things isn’t working
- Re-orient efforts to Christ’s mission
Parish Re-organization

• The meaning of the term **parish**: a geographic area of believers made up of any number of churches

• Requires pruning of the vines to bear new fruit

• Involves pooling human and financial resources & redirecting them towards the mission
Illustration of possible regional parish structure

The Archbishop’s Message

Restructured Parish

Communion of Communities

Leadership Structure
- One Pastor & Leadership Team
- One Pastoral Council
- One Finance Council
Illustration of possible regional parish structure

The Archbishop’s Message

Diocese

- Under the care of a bishop

Parish

- Overseen by a priest
- Supported by lay leadership

*Made up of Communities

- Families
- Small Christian communities
- Movements
- Ministries
- *includes those who do not yet know God
“This reorganization cannot be seen as an exercise in “managed decline,” but must be rooted in hope. Hope that a renewed commitment to our missionary nature will lead to growth, health, and vitality for Catholic communities of all shapes and sizes within the diocese. The conditions are right for a new missionary movement in our culture. This exercise will put us in the right place with the right resources to respond to these conditions for the sake of the Gospel.”
World Café Guidelines

HAVE FUN!!

PLAY - DRAW - DOODLE

CONTRIBUTE
YOUR THINKING

Facilitate yourself & others

Speak with your MIND...and HEART

FOCUS on what matters

LISTEN TO UNDERSTAND

LISTEN together for patterns, insights, & deeper connections

LINK and Connect IDEAS

SLOW DOWN...
so you have Time to think & reflect

CONTRIBUTE YOUR THINKING
Ice Breaker!

What do we have in common?
What are the Opportunities and Constraints that should be considered as part of the proposed parish re-organization?
ROUND TWO: The Centralized Parish

What collaborations are already working well in our Valley Region?

In what ways can efforts of collaboration & centralization be expanded?

Categories to consider:

- Masses
- Sacramental preparation
- Staffing & volunteers
- Communications
- Finances
- Physical structures
- Faith Formation
Break

While on break, please take a moment to review the results of Round One and Round Two
Round One and Round Two Debrief
ROUND THREE: The role of the smaller community

- In our church community, in what specific ways do we currently live out our mission that we should take care to continue to grow?
- How can the distinct character of our church community be honoured and celebrated as part of a regional parish structure?
Next Steps

- Post feedback from each community session
- PPTs and clergy to review and synthesize feedback
- Bring parishioners from all of the church communities together
- Submit proposal to the Archdiocese in the fall
Evaluation

What was your experience here tonight?

Was this session worth your time?

Do you have any suggestions on how to improve this session?
Thought of something else...

Our plan is to post this slide presentation and the review of Archbishop’s message on our website valleycatholichurches.com as soon as all of the presentations have been made.

If you get home and think of more questions / comments or you were not able to attend the session and would like to share, please email your comments to:

valleycatholicinfo@gmail.com
Vision Prayer

Heavenly Father, may the Holy Spirit guide us to become a welcoming, vibrant Catholic community of lifelong learners growing in your love. Be with us as we joyfully share our gifts and talents and serve others through prayer, words and actions. Give us the courage to answer the call to bring all people to Christ.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen