

Parish Assessment & Renewal Report

February
2011

OUR LADY
OF FATIMA
R.C. CHURCH

Pt. Washington, NY

Commission Co-Chairs/ Contact Information

Administration

Frank Murphy
mullingarmurf@aol.com
Michael Raduazzo
mraduazzo@aol.com

Community Life

Laura Costa
lmcisa@gmail.com
Rose Masiello
Rose27ma@aol.com

Faith Formation

Dan Trunk
dan@fwaesq.com
Cathy Lewis
Cathyarts20@aol.com

Liturgy & Spirituality

Kay Barry
Kb6292@aol.com
Jane Candido
jmcandido@verizon.net

Outreach

Margaret Admirand
madmirand@aol.com
Grace McCallen
Mccallen44@aol.com

PAR Coordinator

Alicia Kellso
akellso@aol.com

Dear Fellow Parishioners

We are on our way! New possibilities are ahead! Through the gift of the Holy Spirit we are called to be open to new growth and wisdom.

With the guidance of Father Tom Sweetser and Mrs. Wendy Rappe we were encouraged to examine our current parish structure and consider transitioning to a new model that will help us improve communication between all ministries, involve more parishioners and improve collaboration between parishioners, lay leadership, parish staff and pastor.

The process included a random survey of parishioners, an open town hall meeting, parishioner interviews, staff workshops and workshops with the PAR leadership team. We are truly grateful to everyone who participated in the process. Your dreams for the future of Our Lady of Fatima are appreciated.

Some changes have already taken place: increasing the size of the Pastoral Staff and the recent formation of five new commissions with a new focus on parishioner involvement through a process known as Shared Wisdom and another process known as CDI (Consult, Decide and Inform).



The commissions are: Liturgy & Spirituality, Community Life, Faith Formation, Outreach and Administration. To support these commissions, the Pastoral Council and Pastoral Staff have new responsibilities and all have committed to a six-month plan to implement the initial goals of each Commission. These initial goals may be found on page two of this newsletter. We hope that you will take the time to read the goals and prayerfully consider how you can help.

As we work to turn these goals into reality, we ask for your help. Please consider serving on a new committee, becoming a member of a parish ministry, or sharing your gifts or piece of wisdom with the parish community in a new way.

As our parish moves forward to achieve its goals, we ask for your participation, patience, positive attitude, and most of all, prayer. With your help, we will continue to affirm our strengths, bring new opportunities to life and follow where the Spirit leads us!

Parish Oversight Committee

Kay Barry
Cathy Lewis
Alicia Kellso
Jose Machuca
Rose Masiello
Ruth Masarik
Tricia Shackel

Commission Goals

LITURGY AND SPIRITUALITY

First Year – By the middle of 2011 we will have established an enthusiastic and viable choir of at least 15 men and women. The choir will sing at Mass twice a month and other special liturgies throughout the liturgical year.

Second Year – By 2012 we will have created an assessment process of our entire liturgical life, both prayer experiences and Mass.

Third Year – By 2013 our liturgies are engaging and foster active participation among all of our parishioners.

COMMUNITY LIFE

First Year – By the middle of 2011 we will welcome at least 15 new families into our OLF community through an attractive and inclusive process.

Second Year – By the year 2012 there is a “celebration of unity” calendar that includes at least nine events, such as soup supper, picnic, Hospitality Sunday, fiestas, Seder Supper and other celebrations that appeal to the youth and adults.

Third Year – By the year 2013 we will contact at least 50 more potential volunteers to participate in parish ministries.

FAITH FORMATION

First Year – By the middle of 2011 there is an expanded core group of individuals, both teenagers and adults, who are committed to the planning of social, spiritual and service-oriented events that attract a large group of teens in 9th through 12th grades.

Second Year – By the year 2012 exciting and enriching programs are being offered for the adults of the parish at least six times a year which are well-publicized and attended by a larger group of parishioners.

Third Year – By the year 2013 there are at least five small faith groups meeting on a monthly basis that provide enriching spiritual formation for all who participate.

OUTREACH

First Year – By the middle of 2011 parishioners have a better understanding of Parish Outreach, which includes not only distributing food, but also advocacy, financial assistance, ESL, housing, legal assistance and immigration counseling.

Second Year – By the year 2012 there are social justice programs taking place in the parish that help parishioners understand Catholic social teaching and their responsibilities in this area.

Third Year – By the year 2013 there is an expanded social ministries program that includes more space and volunteers.

ADMINISTRATION

First Year – By the middle of 2011 there is a completed update of current registered parishioners on database that is available to all commission members.

Second Year – By the middle of 2012 there is a process in place for informing, communicating with and explaining to parishioners everything that is happening in parish ministries, committees and activities as a way of encouraging their greater participation.

Third Year – By 2013 the Buildings & Grounds Committee will have identified all planned renovations to the Church and Parish Center as a way of creating an environment of prayerfulness and welcoming.

Liturgy & Spirituality

- Liturgy Planning Committee*
- Liturgical Ministers*
 - Choir/Cantors
 - Ushers/Greeters
 - Lectors
 - Extraordinary Ministers
 - Altar Servers
- Children's Liturgy*
- Prayer Experiences/Groups*
 - Retreats/Missions
 - Novena/Rosary/Charismatic Prayer
 - Taize/Centering Prayer
- Liturgical Environment*

Outreach

- Social Ministries*
 - Emergency Assistance
 - Family Services
 - Food Pantry
 - ESL
 - Baby Shower
 - (Soup Kitchen)*
- Pastoral Care*
 - Bereavement
 - (Ministry to the Sick & Elderly)*
 - (Evangelization)*

Faith Formation

- Religious Education*
 - Gr. K-9
 - Sacramental Preparation
 - Faith Partners
 - Catechist Formation
 - Special Formation Speakers
- Youth and Young Adult Ministry*
- RCIA*
- Adult Faith Formation*
 - Small Faith Communities
 - Bible Study
 - Reading Group
 - (Women's Group)*

How the New Structure Works

The new structure connects lay leaders, pastoral staff, and the pastor in a collaborative model of partnership and shared decision making and leadership. The five newly established Commissions are responsible for setting goals as well as creating an annual plan, setting direction and establishing an annual evaluation for their areas of parish life. All areas of parish life, those already in existence and ones that are yet to be born, will connect with one of the five Commissions.

Each Commission consists of 6 to 9 people who will serve a two-year term. Two co-chairs have been selected to lead each Commission. In addition, two members from each of the Commissions have been selected to serve on the Pastoral Council. Finally, each Commission has a Pastoral Staff member to serve as a liaison and resource person. This structure should facilitate healthy communication – among the Commissions, the Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Staff and the Pastor.

Essential to the success of our new structure is the agreement that decision making will occur at the appropriate level for the decision being considered. Decision makers are to use the models of Shared Wisdom and C (consult) D (decide) I (inform) for making decisions. The CDI and Shared Wisdom models foster greater trust and ownership among the parish staff, leaders and the people of the parish as a whole.

Leadership Night

The five Commissions along with the Pastoral Council and Pastoral Staff will meet monthly on a single evening designated as Leadership Night. The Commissions meet together for prayer; then each Commission convenes separately for one hour to discuss the agenda that has been prepared by the co-chairs and a member of the Pastoral Staff. The commissions then reconvene and listen to a brief summary report on each Commission's work and decisions. Following the reports, the members of the Commissions have an opportunity to socialize and discuss the night's progress while the Pastoral Council convenes separately for an additional hour. Leadership Nights have been held on November 3rd, December 1st, January 5th and February 9th. Future leadership meetings will be held the first Wednesday of each month. A summary report from each Leadership Night will be published in FOCUS shortly after the Leadership Night each month.

*Future Dreams

Community Life

Social Hospitality

- Hospitality Sunday
- Social Events
- Festivals & Parties
- Autumn Yard Sale
- Parish Brunch
- Annual Picnic
- Anniversary Mass

Stewardship of Time & Talent

Hispanic Council

Community Groups

- Knights of Columbus
- Columbiettes (Seniors)*

Gardening Group

Welcoming New Members

Next Steps

F. Tom Sweetser and Mrs. Wendy Rappe will return to OLF in March 2011 to continue the conversation with our Pastoral Staff, Pastoral Council and Leadership Community. In the meantime, please feel free to contact one of the Commission Co-Chairs or a Pastoral Council member to get involved. Our Lady of Fatima is blessed with generous and talented people.

May we continue to share these blessings with one another and create a vision for the future using the 4 P's.....

PATIENCE, PARTICIPATION, POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND PRAYER.

Leadership

Administration

Finance

- Planned Giving
- Money Counters
- Trustees

Buildings & Grounds

Stewardship of Treasure

- Fundraisers
- (Communication)*
- Technology
- Fatima FOCUS
- Website
- (Parish Newsletter)*



*Future Dreams