

Our meeting began at a pivotal point in our journey of Parish Transformation – the time to select a Mission Theme. We had 46 people gathered this evening, which is an impressive number considering the Cubs were playing! We briefly reviewed our most compelling themes from the Lenses exercise in Meeting 4 and the Mission Building Blocks exercise in Meeting 5, both which are available on the parish website. We split into groups to craft a thematic statement which will challenge the parish to be aspirational:

- To be an open, inclusive parish where we hear and serve one another and the wider community
- We welcome all
- Be a beacon of Christ's love
- To love and serve: to be the path for future generations, inclusive spiritual community, respond to God's word
- **To be a spiritual home for all! To know, love and serve others in Christ's name**
- A welcome beacon for all to carry out the word of Christ
- A community striving to be a loving beacon of the Good News of Jesus
- To become more fertile ground to develop holiness, feed our spiritual life and joyfully serve this community
- Pave the way for new generations to come to holiness
- Engage with the community to encourage a sense of belonging where all gifts are valued and all needs are honored

We almost unanimously chose the Mission Theme highlighted above!

We again split into groups to discern one to three most compelling Building Blocks. We were tasked with choosing one Building Block which would advance the Mission Theme and one Building Block which may require restoration. Again, the decision was largely unanimous:

- **Evangelization** – to advance the theme
- **Spiritual Stewardship** – which may require restoration

We discussed the idea of new wine for new wineskins (Luke 5:37-38) as we turn the corner to begin action planning. We must reach out to the outer circles to bring all into discussion. We are looking at a long, hard road. Whatever we decide to do, there is no substitution for good communication. We need to research what other parishes have done to successfully evangelize.

Please give some thought over the next week where you may make your best contribution - Mission sub-committee, Formation sub-committee, or Finance sub-committee. Please also review the essays on Evangelization and Spiritual Stewardship in the mission workbook. Make notes of thoughts/dreams which may enter your mind while you read these chapters. Also read pp 65-74 entitled Our Vision/Action Plan.

The quantitative survey results are now available online. We will meet again next Tuesday, October 27th from 7-9:30pm.

Fr. Ed closed by reminding us that we have chosen a challenging path. How do we live out the gospel values in our lives? How do people encounter the gospel of Jesus Christ in us? We are talking about becoming different as a people of faith. We must pray for God's grace.

"I dream of a "missionary option," that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that that Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation." Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel, #27