

## Parish Evangelization Assessment Tool

The purpose of this evaluation is two-fold. First, it should be used before the Evangelization Committee begins planning. Committee members can fill out the form as a group and identify what evangelization programs already exist. Of these, which ones are doing well? Which ones need more attention? The committee can then determine whether to focus their efforts on existing evangelization efforts or initiate new ones. A variety of suggestions for evangelization efforts are imbedded in the assessment tool itself.

Secondly, the assessment tool may be used throughout the evangelization process to determine progress and obtain new ideas. As the committee develops its plan for evangelization, it is important to keep the needs and diversity of parishioners in mind. Most parishes are made up of a variety of groups such as:

- Young adults (18-25 years of age)
- Young married couples (25-40 years of age)
- Elderly married couples (65 and older)
- Elementary school children
- Teens
- Single, young to middle-age
- Single, elderly, living alone
- Widowed
- Single parent families
- Newcomers
- Sick/Homebound/Nursing Homes
- Divorced/Separated
- Remarried
- Empty nesters
- Unemployed

The statements in the following sections refer to Goals I (statements 1-6), II (statements 7-11) and III (statement 12-15) of *Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United State*. Read each statement carefully. Then assess how well your parish currently participates in each item listed below the statement, using the following numerical key:

- 1 = Going strong
- 2 = Adequate
- 3 = Needs help
- 4 = Not in place, but should be started immediately
- 5 = Not in place, but may be considered in the future

Hopefully, once members of the Evangelization Committee have completed the assessment tool they will have some indication of the direction the parish needs to take to enhance its evangelization efforts.

SECTION I
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1. The parish provides for faith development in the following ways:

\_\_\_\_\_ Parish renewal programs

\_\_\_\_\_ Retreats

\_\_\_\_\_ Scripture study

\_\_\_\_\_ Liturgy of the hours

\_\_\_\_\_ Liturgy of the Word for Children

\_\_\_\_\_ Youth Retreat Programs

\_\_\_\_\_ Faith Sharing Groups

\_\_\_\_\_ Devotional Prayer Forms (e.g. Stations of the Cross, Rosary, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Quiet space for personal prayer (chapel)

\_\_\_\_\_ Comprehensive, ongoing adult faith formation that addresses various phases of the adult life cycle (e.g. young adults, empty nesters, elderly, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Marriage Enrichment

\_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

2. The parish fosters Eucharist as central to parish life by:

\_\_\_\_\_ Greeting and welcoming

\_\_\_\_\_ Fostering prayer-filled liturgy with active participation

\_\_\_\_\_ Ensuring that communal worship accessible to everyone in the parish (e.g. Handicap accessible and bi-lingual Masses)

\_\_\_\_\_ Providing for social interaction before and after Mass

\_\_\_\_\_ Ensuring that all liturgical ministers are well prepared (presider, deacon, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Communion, music ministers, servers, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Parishioners are involved in sacramental celebrations as:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Co-sponsors at infant baptisms
- \_\_\_\_\_ Witnesses and supporters at parish weddings
- \_\_\_\_\_ Comforters, support and faith builders for those mourning loved ones
- \_\_\_\_\_ Healers and peacemakers, encouraging reconciliation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsors for the Catechumenate
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsors for Confirmation of adolescents or adults
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

4. The parish fosters a deeper sense of prayer by encouraging:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Personal time for daily prayer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family prayers at meals, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Communal prayer in small groups or larger parish groups
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

5. A sense of discipleship is promoted among parishioners by:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Developing catechetical opportunities on discipleship which are clear and easy-to-understand
- \_\_\_\_\_ Forming and training a strong lay leadership
- \_\_\_\_\_ Providing prayer events that lead to transforming the workplace
- \_\_\_\_\_ Calling for active involvement in ministry and service in all age groups
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Active participation in small personal groups exist to:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Share, experience and apply the Good News

- \_\_\_\_\_ Provide neighborhood support
- \_\_\_\_\_ Offer prayer and faith development for couples and families
- \_\_\_\_\_ Discover and catch any parishioners who may be falling through the cracks
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

SECTION II
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7. An attitude of welcome and invitation is apparent in the parish:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ At the parish center/rectory to any callers or visitors
  - \_\_\_\_\_ At the church entrance and within the church environment
  - \_\_\_\_\_ In the parish school or other parish buildings
  - \_\_\_\_\_ In educational programs
  - \_\_\_\_\_ By offering workshops to promote strategies for welcoming
  - \_\_\_\_\_ By promoting availability and access to all parish resources
  - \_\_\_\_\_ With greeters present at every liturgy
  - \_\_\_\_\_ By identifying newcomers and visitors and welcoming them in a special way
  - \_\_\_\_\_ By encouraging people to exchange friendly interaction in the church
  - \_\_\_\_\_ When the presider formally welcomes people
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_
  
8. Faith experience is reflected on during special times and events, such as:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-marriage preparation and an Engaged Ritual Blessing
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Senior high school and college graduation
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Junior high teen activities
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Weddings

- \_\_\_\_\_ Baptismal preparation and ongoing sponsorship
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sacraments of initiation for adults and youth
- \_\_\_\_\_ First Eucharist/Reconciliation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Support for bereaved
- \_\_\_\_\_ In times of personal/family crisis or illness
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

9. The parish reaches out to the community by:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Engaging in home visitation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Visiting hospitals, nursing homes and homes of the sick
- \_\_\_\_\_ Regarding names of individuals who might welcome a visit from a parish staff member
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Trained parishioners are available to listen and offer a sincere attitude of welcome to alienated Catholics such as those who are:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Divorced
- \_\_\_\_\_ Separated
- \_\_\_\_\_ Remarried
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hurting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hungry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Stressed by tragedy
- \_\_\_\_\_ Emotionally burdened
- \_\_\_\_\_ Victims of violence
- \_\_\_\_\_ Feeling alone or isolated in the community

\_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

11. The parish reaches out to returning Catholics in the following ways:

\_\_\_\_\_ Inviting individuals/families to participate in parish programs to nourish faith development

\_\_\_\_\_ Stressing hospitality as a form of outreach

\_\_\_\_\_ Providing some type of “welcome home” committee or group

\_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

SECTION III
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12. Societal issues are discussed at the parish level with:

\_\_\_\_\_ An active social/human concerns committee

\_\_\_\_\_ Formation sessions

\_\_\_\_\_ Workshops addressing explicit concerns such as:

- Respect for the dignity of human life
- Marriage and Family Life
- Medical ethics (e.g. end of life issues, stem cell research, cloning, etc.)
- Faithful citizenship
- Peace
- Cultural diversity
- Health care
- Care of the elderly
- Immigration reform
- Violence/Conflicts in various areas of life
- Economic justice/poverty
- Racism and prejudice
- Environmental care of the earth/climate change
- Media and its impact
- Persons with disabilities
- Affordable housing/homelessness
- Children lacking a stable home environment
- Criminal justice
- Death penalty
- Rural life and land use

- \_\_\_\_\_ Networking with other community groups seeking to address similar issues
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

13. The following means are used by the parish community to make a difference in its own city/town and nation:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Liturgy and worship
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bulletins
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parish newsletter/journal
- \_\_\_\_\_ Poster displays
- \_\_\_\_\_ Informal discussions
- \_\_\_\_\_ Linking up with local community events
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsoring ecumenical workshops, rallies and events
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

14. The parish uses financial resources to serve the needs of neighborhoods and beyond by:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Raising awareness of community needs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Setting goals of service hours and fundraising for community needs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Organizing a twinning project or sister parish relationship both within and outside the United States
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

15. The parish has contributed in areas of public policy by:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Setting up parish education programs with a social justice focus
- \_\_\_\_\_ Creating political conscience formation programs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Developing professional support groups in all areas, especially in law, economics and social services

\_\_\_\_\_ Encouraging parish members to run for and hold public office

\_\_\_\_\_ Advocating to the legislature

\_\_\_\_\_ Participating in church-based community efforts

\_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

16. List any other forms of evangelization currently taking place in the parish and rate its status using the number key.

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