

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

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

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

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.
