

Summary of Parish Conversation on July 23, 2015

1. How shall we (how do we) change the lives of those who journey with us?

Acceptance

- Many kinds of backgrounds

- People feeling accepted will participate

- Better years ago?

Invitation

- Ask people to join

Non-intentional Exclusivity

Ministry – need more follow through from chair people

Invite to coffee and donuts

Participation

- Liturgy, environment

- Enhancements to liturgy

- Everyone engaged

Change comes through support

Journey - not just as St. C's but our families, our workmates, our neighbors

- Be positive influence

** Connections

2. How are we called to be in ministry to people outside the walls of our church?

Could be a spark to get children involved in ministry

How are we as we go about our days?

How do we interact with others?

We can be role models to young people.

Let's not make it so complicated.

We could be better about speaking about faith; though it is hard right now – local events and leadership make it hard to talk; but rare time w/Pope to engage in conversation.

Pope is giving us ability to be hopeful (ex. Message about the poor, environment, etc.)

What activities could the parish do as a whole?

3. Whom are we called to attract? Why? How shall we invite them?

Led by the Spirit we suggest:

- Building within and building out – connecting
- Better w/i our community and connecting with people outside St. C's
- Welcome everyone as Jesus did
- Attraction – not promotion
- Reaching out to people with personal invites
- Prayer IS the most important
- Team up with other churches (in neighborhood area)
- Pray for everyone (some prayer requests are not allowed?)
- Connect with those who have lost a loved one (card, hello, etc.)
- Birthday cards for lonely, elderly
- Reach out to those who used to be in this church; see how they are
- Development outreach ministries in conjunction with other churches
- Share with parish what we do outside this churchy (e.g., Red Lake kids share their experience; can adults do that too?)

WHO?

- Younger people
- Marginalized, alienated (not just from church), poor
- People searching for a faith community, don't have a "home"
- Everyone (stronger with many viewpoints)
- Who are we missing?

HOW?

- Our circle of people
- Flyers, publications
- Get to know people one to one
- Word of mouth
- Father – extend welcome to people at baptisms, weddings, funerals
- Teach not all parishes are the same
- Not judgmental homilies
- Acceptance
- All activities give same message

WHY?

- We are called

4. What are the core values that shape our community?

Welcoming

Service

Fellowship

Witness

Compassion

Liturgy

A sense of place

Intimate

Don't get lost here

Social Justice

Hospitable

Intentional Membership

Acceptance

Education

Place of Peace

Fully engaged in the liturgy

Social Justice – simple ways to be involved

Community Support

Welcoming – Open

Willing to challenge/learn

5. What might God be calling us to risk? To lose? To gain?

RISK

- Overload (participation by a few)
- Loss of priest/parish
- Sense of control

GAIN

- Greater lay involvement
- Diversity of voices
 - Young people
 - Parent to parent support

LOSE

- Time/sleep
- What we have (we like our friendly, supportive, progressive parish; good atmosphere)