



PLANS OF HOPE
HOUMA-THIBODAUX PARISH PLANNING

DIOCESAN PLANNING PRIORITY NO. 1: SUNDAY
CHAPTER 10
RESOURCE A



Assessing Sunday’s hospitality in your parish

AREA 1. HOSPITALITY

SCORE THE ACTIVITIES BELOW USING THIS SCALE:

WEAKEST 0 1 2 3 4 5 STRONGEST

- | | SCORE |
|---|-------|
| • Our parish has a ministry where we are assured that a human person says “hello” or “welcome” before every parishioner gets to their pew | _____ |
| • Our parish has a ministry where we are assured that a human person hands everyone a bulletin rather than having them pick it up on their own | _____ |
| • Parishioners do not sit on the edge of pew, expecting others to step “over them” for vacant pew space in the middle of the pew | _____ |
| • In the event that the church is “full” ushers assist people in finding a seat, at <i>all</i> Masses | _____ |
| • If I were someone who had never attended the parish, at least two different parishioners would on their initiative welcome me and ask me my name | _____ |
| • If I were someone <i>who had never attended the parish</i> , I would easily know where to park, which door to enter, and exactly where to sit for Mass | _____ |
| • The restrooms are inside the church facility | _____ |
| • If I were someone <i>who had never attended the parish</i> , I would easily know where the restrooms are located | _____ |
| • The church restrooms are cleaned before <i>every</i> Mass | _____ |
| • Considering those who are not Catholic or those who have been away from the Church, it is easy to know exactly what songs are being sung and how I can find the words to the songs | _____ |
| • Considering those who are not Catholic or those who have been away from the Church, the complete set of Mass parts are easy to find as soon as I sit in the pew and in every pew | _____ |
| • Considering Jesus’ own words in the Gospel I am confident that if drug addicts and prostitutes (who “looked like” people’s stereotypes of those lifestyles) came to Mass they would feel welcome | _____ |
| • If I were someone <i>who had never attended the parish</i> , other than the priest , I would easily know where to go <i>and</i> who to talk to immediately after Mass if I had <i>any</i> questions | _____ |



PLANS OF HOPE

HOUMA-THIBODAUX PARISH PLANNING

DIOCESAN PLANNING PRIORITY NO. 1: SUNDAY

CHAPTER 10 RESOURCE B



Assessing Liturgical music in your parish

AREA 2. LITURGICAL MUSIC

SCORE THE ACTIVITIES BELOW USING THIS SCALE:

WEAKEST

0

1

2

3

4

STRONGEST

5

SCORE

General

- Is the music technically, aesthetically and expressively worthy of the liturgy?
- Does the music at Mass support the liturgy well and help the congregation participate fully, consciously and actively in the Mass?
- Does it seem that those in music ministry are prayerful? Does that draw people into prayer?
- Is the sound balanced?
- Does the music ever feel like a distraction or something simply 'endured' ?

Prayerful and skilled musicians

- Are those involved in the music ministry skilled musicians and with potential to grow?
- Is there the need to recruit more skilled musicians?
- If the musical skill level or sound is poor, might it be deterring good musicians from coming forward?
- Do the musicians serve the worshipping community by enabling their liturgical singing, or does the music at Mass feel like a performance?
- Does the music ministry team seem to be in 'relationship' with one another, worshipping 'communally'?
- Is the music ministry aware of all the parts of the Mass?
- Is the music ministry able to lead the congregation to full participation in singing the Mass parts?
- Is there an attitude of excellence, out of the desire to serve the liturgy well and help the people of God pray... is there an ongoing desire and commitment to improve musically?
- Is there a cultivated culture of mutual aid, respect and encouragement rather than a criticism amongst musicians?
- Is there communication amongst all parish musicians at a parish and a sense of community amongst all who share this common ministry?

Prayer and discernment, has a primary role in how the music ministry plans, prepares and ministers

- Do the music ministers who select music consult with the pastor (for homily themes, consultation, pulse on parishioner needs, etc)?
- Do those selecting music intentionally pray with the readings of the Mass?
- Does the music ministry team have scheduled times of prayer together?
- Is there regular and ongoing discernment about roles within the ministry, music selection, response from the congregation, etc.
- Is there a formal process in place to select music for the liturgy?
- Are musicians aware of the resources available to help them plan liturgical music?
- Do music ministers take into account ability and learning pace when introducing a new song? (repeating new songs to allow learning and participation)

An understanding of the liturgy and the role of sacred music in the liturgy

- Has there been any formal formation or process of formation for all those involved in music ministry to learn about the Liturgy?
- Has there been proper formation to learn about the role of music in the liturgy?
- Has there been proper formation to learn how things like dynamics in the music and certain instrumentality can help support the movements of the liturgy?

The Music Minister should understand how to apply the following three judgments when preparing music for the Sunday Celebration:

- a. The Liturgical Judgment: how the music accords with the liturgical season and this particular liturgy (with special attention given to the Scripture readings).
 - b. The Musical Judgment: is the music of good quality? Musical form and quality are not to be confused. The Church recognizes and accepts many different forms of music.
 - c. The Pastoral Judgment: will the music selected enable this particular congregation to give expression to its faith and foster a union of hearts and minds? Does the music selected recognize the abilities and diversity of the congregation?
- Do music ministers understand how to apply these three judgments when preparing music for Sunday Celebration?

Adequate time for preparation and rehearsal

- Are there standards and expectations in regards to preparation and rehearsal?
- Is there an outside objective person there to help guide the rehearsal at times, offering feedback to aid in improvement?
- Does the music ministry team take time to simply 'pray and sing' as a means of communal prayer and to aid in learning to sing with 'one heart and one mind'.



PLANS OF HOPE

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DIOCESAN PLANNING PRIORITY NO. 1: SUNDAY

CHAPTER 10 RESOURCE C



Assessing preaching in your parish

AREA 3. PREACHING

SCORE THE ACTIVITIES BELOW USING THIS SCALE:

WEAKEST

0

1

2

3

4

STRONGEST

5

SCORE

- The homilist has a group of laity that he consults with on a weekly basis during his preparation _____
- It is clear and evident to the congregation that the homilist is prepared _____
- The homilies illustrate an obvious connection to the Sunday readings _____
- The structure of the homilies are clear (a good beginning, middle, and end) _____
- The length of the homilies are appropriate to keeping people’s attention _____
- The homilies are relevant to the everyday lives of parishioners _____
- The homilies are relevant to parishioners at various age groups and education levels _____
- I can almost always summarize the homily in one sentence _____
- I can remember the core message from at least three homilies during the last six weeks _____
- Homilies are recorded and posted online _____
- Parishioners request appointments because they were moved by the homily _____
- Parishioners *often* talk about the homily outside of Mass to people who don’t go to Mass _____
- Overall: delivery _____
- Overall: pronunciation, diction, accent _____
- Overall: experience of preaching _____