



Implementation Update #3

May 18, 2017

Faith in Our Future Diocesan Staff

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Did You Know?

There are more than 2 million people who live in the four counties that make up the Diocese of Trenton AND that roughly one out of every three of them is Catholic?

That's a lot of Catholic people! It is easy to see how our parishes have such an impact on the communities in which they are located. If we have such a significant impact with the active participation of only a fraction of our parishioners, imagine what could be accomplished with another 10 or 20%! The scripture tells us that God is able to "accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us" (Eph 3:20).

It is probably safe to say that every person serving on an Implementation Team wants the work they are doing to make a difference. One way to do that is to make sure your action plans are SMART. They should be:

- Specific – about what will be done
- Measurable – so that you can verify what was accomplished
- Achievable – within the time frame given and using the resources available
- Responsibilities Identified – as to who will do what is planned
- Time-bound – there are dates by which to mark progress

In short hand, the SMART action plan tells WHO will do WHAT by WHEN. Please see the green pages in Section 2 of your Implementation Guide for examples.

A Best Practice:

Work through Questions with Prayer and Dialogue

At a recent meeting, the following question was raised: Why should parishes spend precious resources in developing youth and young adults, when most will eventually move out of the parish. Led by the four pastors, a lively discussion ensued. Clearly, without referring to it, the group was mindful of Jesus' words: "Look up and see the fields ripe for harvest. The reaper is already receiving his payment and gathering crops for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together. For here the saying is verified that one sows and another reaps." (John: 6 33-37) After much dialogue, the Cohort concluded that yes, it was prudent to spend time, talent and money to educate and motivate youth in their faith both for their personal salvation and their potential to contribute their gifts to the mission of the universal church. The discussion and conclusion reached is a great example of the spirit of collaboration. I think our Bishop would have enjoyed the discussion and smiled at the conclusion.

----shared by John Toman, Project Team Member