

**A COMMUNITY OF
MISSIONARY DISCIPLES**

**A PASTORAL PLAN FOR THE
DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON**

UNITY/COMMUNION

Submitted by St. William Catholic Church, London, Ky

Cultivate family unity

- Parishes will provide resources that promote mutual respect/ dialogue within the family as way to witness unity
 1. Distribute materials, bulletin articles, encourage participation in Diocesan workshops
 2. Family resources from Family Life office be made available

- The needs of single adults must be especially emphasized by identifying barriers to unity among our single, elderly, and disabled parishioners.
 1. Identify who they are and contact ...
 2. Thursday Rosary and discussion group composed of elderly ladies – invite more
 3. Print out from parish registration single adults 18 – 30 and poll for ideas.
 4. Communion to Home Bound - bulletin by mail or taken there

- Parishes will promote efforts aimed towards greater unity throughout the Church family
 1. WCC gathers families with religious education students
 2. Maybe once a month have a parade to go by the shut-ins with signs and a small gift to let them know we miss them (make sure family member know and has them ready without spoiling the surprise) - Visiting caravan with We miss you – started today.
 3. Parish Picnic

Parishes and schools will endeavor to be a local witness for unity.

1. Participate in local events
2. Holy Week Lunches and prayer
3. Participation in Martin Luther King Day
4. Outreach activities.
5. During this time a phone line that calls everyone from Fr. Vitner with a good morning and a nice prayer for those that don't have a computer. This would be a great investment as in the winter months with snow or ice, the call can go out if religious education is canceled and/or Church. Also, a great way to get telephone numbers for everyone in our parish.

Look to be a prophetic voice for unity in the Church and society.

- Priests and deacons will preach and teach the church's role as an agent of reconciliation, a proponent of restorative justice, a minister to the marginalized and a healer where there is division.
 1. Sunday Homilies
 2. Topical speakers

- Pray with other Christian churches for unity.
 1. Participate in Holy Week services
 2. Thanksgiving dinner for community
 3. Support efforts made by ecumenical community in addressing issues – especially if coming together for prayer
 4. Have a person on the committee at Laurel Life Center.
 5. Outreach to Good Samaritan Home and Domestic Violence Shelter

Pastoral Council Planning

Goal 2: Discovering the Gifts of Diversity and Celebrating it.

Strategy 1: Acknowledge our diversity

- St. William has a Hispanic and small Filipinos population. We have celebrated this diversity with an ethnic picnic in the past, but we should reach out to the surrounding parishes (Scared Heat, St. Ann, Williamsburg and Jellico) and include their ethnic populations in these celebrations so we can experience and celebrate all cultures.

Strategy 2: Provide opportunities for encounter

- Determine if Newman centers can be opened at our local college/university with large international student populations (Cumberland and Union). Invite these Catholic students to visit and participate in local parish activities.
- Contact Deacon John Coe who is active with the LGBTQ community in Kentucky and determine if there is are local groups we could reach out to and invite to our parish.
- Following up on the interracial healing prayer service, attend mass at St. Peter Claver and invite them to St. William to continue awareness and prayer.
- Look into starting a divorce/single group between all local parishes to provide support and fellowship.

Diocesan Pastoral Plan

Mission Priority Three: Unity/Communion

Goal 3: Forming Inclusive and welcoming communities

Goal 3 Team: Cynthia Middleton, Lori Harp, Michelle Page, Ron Chester, Tony Raiche,
Lead

Strategy 1: Develop training to share best practices for promoting intercultural unity.

Assumption per strategy: Diocese will furnish most of material required

A. Implementing Goal on a Deanery Level

1. Make sure next deanery meeting addresses issue, location of materials and status of materials.
2. Locate all data
3. Make sure each church has data readily available
4. Make sure tools are people and presenter friendly

B. Implementing Goal on Parish Level

1. Identify a core group of 3 within the parish with language diversity to lead the effort.
2. Identify diverse groups in term of culture, likes, ages, desires in addition to language to work with.
3. Identify members for cross group discussion
4. Make sure youth involved
5. Identify key leaders in other parishes with experience to help us.
6. Get people involved in Lexington to help us.
7. Based on materials and methods that have been successful develop activities that are both within St Williams and within surrounding parishes in the deanery.

Note: The approach is general since the materials need to be acquired and then more evaluation to be completed prior to having activities for community and unity. At this time we are assuming the materials noted in the strategy exist.

GOAL FOUR: WE WILL PROMOTE WITHIN OUR PARISH AND DIOCESE A CULTURE THAT FOSTERS OUR UNITY AND EXPERIENCE OF COMMUNION, MIRRORING THE TRINITY, BY:

Strategy 1: Encourage a culture of mutuality in relationships.

- *We assumed that the deans and secretariats have coordinated energy of introducing urban/rural pairing/ twining, which considers all parishes and missions, within their biannual meeting structure.*

Even though we are living in unusual times experiencing Covid-19 restrictions the Pastoral Plan has been in existence for over a year so we assume that these plans have been formulated.

- *Diocese to encourage parishes to offer classes in English and Spanish as a second language as a ministry of mutual encounter.*

The formation committee has promoted the idea of instruction of Spanish to English for some time. During the scholastic year of 2019-2020 this program was begun for our Hispanic population under the guidance of a Hispanic parish council member. Covid-19's restrictions for meeting have suspended this endeavor for the time being.

- *Diocese to encourage parishes to share activities such as liturgies, choir practices, workshops, talks and youth events.*

Members assigned to discuss this goal noted that using the 2020 diocesan directory there are 1,226 households in the Mountain West Deanery with St. William London being the 3rd largest. Programs within the functions of the formation committee have reached out to Manchester's St. Anne's & Barbourville's St. Gregory parishes for religious retreats, youth gatherings, Catholic Heart Work Camp, Sacrament of Confirmation, and liturgical celebrations. Guest speakers arranged by St. William's formation committee for each season of Advent and Lent have extended invitations to attend to St. Anne's parishioners. In the recent past our three-pastors' Lenten program flyer information was distributed at a deanery meeting. These programs occur during times when our ease of driving and days of light are shorter. Parishioners from other locations are hesitant to drive home in the evenings after dark. Geographic distances are challenging for gatherings of a broader participation.

- *Parishes with schools will make efforts toward mutuality in ministry and minimizing any divisions.*

Does not apply to St. William's parish.

Strategy 2: Provide opportunities for encounter at diocesan events.

- *Diocese will exercise flexibility in scheduling major diocesan celebrations outside the Cathedral of Christ the King.*
- *Diocese will encourage training and formation activities to be scheduled outside Lexington (e.g. Evangelii Gaudium workshops in Jackson).*

In the past the Diocesan staff have held various educational opportunities at St. William's parish. RCIA workshop is one of the recent events attended by individuals from the Mountain West Deanery. Regional MBA trainings were hosted here on a regular basis. St. William's in London is centrally located and is always happy to welcome such gatherings.

Discussion by Task Group:

How can we implement this goal on a deanery level?

Determine the different ethnicities in the deanery. Are they bilingual?

Do the parish members share in knowing more of the diversity? Do they mingle with one another? What are the successes of welcoming and integrating members whose country of origin are other than the United States.

How can be implement this goal on a parish level?

Encourage more parishioners to attend Spanish Mass.

Teach English to Spanish as well as Spanish to English.

Hold social pot lucks with foods from different countries featured.

Establish lay representatives to deanery.

Encourage host parishes for deanery trainings and celebrations.

Continue to use Microsoft-Team for meetings as needed bridging the mileage gap.

Share programs, Masses, celebrations via parish Facebook and/or parish websites.

Encourage unity & participation among members of parishes throughout the deanery,