

Revitalizing Sacramental Ministry: A Framework for Parishes
Fall Gatherings – September/October 2013
General Notes

- I.** After some time for prayer, members of the Sacramental Ministry Team presented the framework document. Then parishes divided into groups for discussion around one of the following sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage.
- II. Hopes/Vision for Sacramental Ministry in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati**
- People will be more engaged in the process
 - Teenagers and adults will want to be in the process
 - Parents engaging in deeper faith formation
 - Sacramental ministry generates hunger for the life of faith
 - People are invited into a relationship with Jesus Christ
 - Peer ministry, apprenticeship model is key
 - Whole community is engaged and recognizes their role in the sacramental life of those in our midst
 - Families, sponsors are engaged
 - Springboard for spiritual renewal for the whole family
 - Growing understanding of relationship between marriage and baptism
 - Walking with parents/adults/teens on the journey of faith
 - Change or grow understanding of the sacramental life by all involved
 - Mutual investment: parish to couple, couple to parish, youth to parish, parish to youth
 - Christ at the Center of sacramental ministry
 - Meeting people where they are and journey with them on the path of faith
 - Sacramental ministry reformulated from ground up
 - Inviting people into a conversion-oriented Church
 - Growing an engaged Church
 - Ongoing process for all stages of married and family life
- III. Obstacles/Challenges**
- Getting teenagers and adults to be engaged in the process.
 - Managing safe environment concerns responsibly, but still build community
 - Forming entire families
 - Mentor couples: recruitment and training
 - Getting parishioners to be on board

- Moving beyond the mentality of “getting something” or “getting something done” (i.e, Baptism, Confirmation)
- Transient nature of young couples today
- Regional considerations
- Those who do not want to do something differently
- Dealing with issues such as cohabitation, marriage issues
- Balance accepting people where they are at and Church teaching.
- Changing the Mindset: after sacramental celebration they have completed their commitment until the next sacrament

IV. Implications

- We need to revisit liturgical ministry – how liturgical ministers are formed (cf. pg. 5 #2)
- Help parishes know the Book of Blessings (p. 3 – B) prayer services/rituals along the way of preparation
- Help parishes build resources
- Mystagogia: Help parishes understand this concept better; provide a possible script for doing mystagogy; mystagogical preaching helps
- Provide videos of celebrations of best sacramental celebrations
- Priestly and diaconal formation will need to be addressed
- Responding to the differences in parish communities and the various needs; sensitivity to the differences
- Pro-active evangelization – how do we do that?
- Help parishes to become more welcoming.
- We will need to change the way we relate to people coming to us.
- We will need to engage people in the sacramental imagination.
- We must build hospitable communities in which to invite people; training entire staffs in this area
- Recruiting and training mentor couples, peer ministers
- Finding and developing resources.
- Exploring best practices in the Archdiocese and nationally.