

Strengthening the Evangelizing Mission of the Church
Recommendations to the Archbishop

The following seven recommendations are taken from the document “Strengthening the Evangelizing Mission of the Church” approved by the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council on September 19, 2009. A full copy of this 16 page document may be downloaded from www.archdpdx.org in the Pastoral Council section of the Archdiocesan Leadership tab. A supplemental report containing the objectives and strategies of Disciples in Mission may also be downloaded from the same location.

1. We recommend that the Archdiocese provide and support leadership training for parish staffs and the laity to provide skills for volunteer coordination, small group dynamics, and Christian leadership skills. This is needed in all the faith communities in the Archdiocese, and there is a special need in the Hispanic community for this training.
 - a. That the Pastoral Center adopt a “train the trainer” approach and maintain a list of local priests, deacons & laity who have the interest and ability to train new pastoral council members, provide leadership training to parish staffs and volunteer coordinators, conduct pastoral planning retreats, provide spiritual direction, provide assistance planning and executing evangelistic programs, and other services as requested by the parishes.
 - b. That the Archdiocese continue to support existing training programs including the Ministry Certificate programs, the Ministry Formation office, the Fe Y Vida program, the Youth Ministry training program, and the Masters of Arts in Pastoral Ministry, and that the Archdiocese continue to work to make these programs accessible to as wide an audience as possible.
 - c. That the Archdiocese expand their “best practices sharing” portion of the Archdiocesan website and include a Q&A section on various topics.
 - d. That the Archdiocese develop and promulgate a self-assessment tool that pastoral councils can use to assess their effectiveness and identify strengths and weaknesses.
 - e. That the Archdiocese support small faith communities in the Archdiocese with training, programs and resources to help their members grow in faith and service of the Gospel.

2. We recommend that the members of every parish pastoral council be encouraged to grow in their own faith and service of the Gospel through individual and corporate prayer, regular retreats, and study of church documents relevant to their pastoral leadership role.
 - a. The pastoral council should be encouraged to incorporate prayer and faith sharing as an integral part of their regular meetings.
 - b. The pastoral council should have an annual spiritual retreat.
 - c. Pastoral council members should read and study church documents related to their ministry under the direction of their pastor or other qualified person, especially the documents referenced in this report.

- d. Pastoral councils should review the goals and strategies of *Go and Make Disciples* contained in this report and systematically implement them as appropriate.
 - e. Pastoral councils should regularly assess all ministries and activities of the parish in light of the evangelizing mission of the parish.
 - f. All Pastoral Council members (and especially the chair) should be receiving the Archdiocese General Mailing so they are aware of what is happening in the Archdiocese.
3. We recommend that parishes be encouraged to form a standing committee or commission on evangelization within the parish to work with parish staff to coordinate evangelistic activities in the parish. Members of this committee should be drawn from those parishioners who received leadership training in the Disciples in Mission program and others in their parish with a heart for evangelization.
- a. The members of the evangelization committee should seek to deepen their own faith through daily prayer, service, and prayerful study and reflection on the Church's many documents on evangelization, especially those referenced in this document.
 - b. The committees should work collaboratively with other parishes in their vicariate to promote parish missions, public Masses, retreats, days of prayer, speakers and events that will encourage the faithful and draw others to the faith.
 - c. The committee should study the USCCB's pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, and take on the stewardship function as an integral component of the evangelizing mission of the parish.
 - d. The committees should actively reach out to the Hispanic and other ethnic members in their parish community and engage them in the work of evangelizing their parish community.
 - e. The committees should actively reach out to the young adult members in their parish community and engage them in the work of evangelizing their parish community.
 - f. The committees should work to ensure marriage preparation programs and baptismal preparation programs are designed to equip young couples to share the faith with their children.
 - g. That the committees work with the parish social justice committees to promote the integration of faith and service to the community.
 - h. As needed, the committees should access resources from the Office of Ministry Formation, the Office of Evangelization, the NW Paulist Center for Evangelization and Reconciliation in Portland, and the ICPE Mission in Stayton.
4. We recommend that the Archdiocese continue to support and encourage the creation of parish-based small faith communities and apostolic movements among the faithful – especially among the Hispanic community – to extend the reach of the parishes in outreach and ministry and to create a more intimate setting for faith sharing, evangelization, and ministry among the faithful.

- a. The leadership of these groups should be fully integrated into the parish pastoral planning and pastoral councils.
 - b. These groups and their ministries should participate in and coordinate with the parish evangelization committees/commissions.
 - c. These groups should work with other parish ministries and structures to help the Hispanic and Anglo faith communities to build a diverse parish culture that works toward building the one Body of Christ while honoring cultural differences.
 - d. These groups should especially focus on forming leaders who are deeply rooted in a personal relationship with Christ to serve the Church.
5. We recommend that the Archdiocese work with the NW Paulist Center for Evangelization and Reconciliation to:
- a. ...create and pilot a process that includes a program of formation and training in evangelization and reconciliation ministry skills for parishes and Catholics throughout the Archdiocese.
 - b. ...use their resources and personnel to assist the Archdiocese and the Office for Evangelization in establishing this process and program of formation and training.
 - c. ...create a certification program for Catholic evangelizers for both Parish Evangelization Teams and interested individual Catholics, similar to the existing programs for the certification of catechists.
6. We recommend that the Archdiocese welcome and encourage the Institute For World Evangelization – ICPE Mission’s effort to establish a Mission Center in the Archdiocese of Portland. This international association of lay Catholics operates Schools of Mission around the world to form and train lay Catholics to become effective evangelizers, and to provide a structured support system for those lay Catholics who experience a call to become full-time lay missionaries for the mission *ad gentes*. In the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, the ICPE Mission seeks to accomplish the following goals:
- a. To work collaboratively with the Archdiocese Ministry Formation Center to create a USCCB accredited school to form and train young adults, including young Hispanic adults, for a lifetime of service to the Church as evangelists, youth ministers, catechists, and lay ecclesial ministers.
 - b. To work with local pastors and parish pastoral councils to provide evangelistic retreats, missions, days of prayer and outreaches to parish communities in the Archdiocese.
 - c. To actively participate in and provide training and support to local parish evangelization committees as they go about the work of evangelizing their parish communities and the larger society.
 - d. To provide opportunities for local Catholics to support and directly participate in the missionary activities and ministries of the various ICPE Mission Centers around the world.
 - e. To promote, support and sustain the establishment of parish-based small communities to serve the special needs of the Hispanic population of the Archdiocese.

7. We recommend that standing committee(s) be established under the supervision and leadership of the Pastoral Center's Department of Evangelization to enable volunteers to support and leverage the work of the Pastoral Center staff.
 - a. These volunteers should be given some form of formal recognition for their role and their work at the Pastoral Center.
 - b. These volunteers should be provided ongoing training and leadership to be effective in their work.
 - c. These volunteers should receive the Archdiocese General Mailing so they can stay informed on Archdiocesan activities and issues.