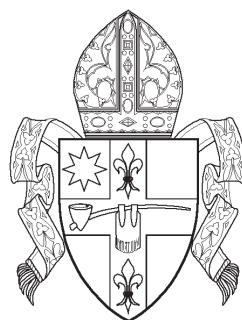


Comprehensive Evangelization Inventory for Parish Leaders

based on

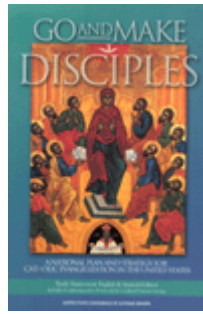
***Go and Make Disciples:
A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization
in the United States***

by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (1992)



**Catholic Diocese
of Peoria**

COMPREHENSIVE EVANGELIZATION INVENTORY FOR PARISH LEADERS



Go and Make Disciples
10th Anniversary
English/Spanish edition
available for order
from the USCCB
(800) 235-8722

INTRODUCTION

GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES
Catholic Evangelization in the United States

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” (Matthew 28: 18-20)

“I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing.” (Luke 12: 49)

SECTION I

KNOW YOUR PARISH NOW

**WHO MAKES UP OUR
PARISH COMMUNITY?**

**% WHO ARE
CURRENTLY ACTIVE?**

- | | |
|--|-------|
| _____ number of households in parish | _____ |
| _____ young adults 18-25 | _____ |
| _____ young marrieds | _____ |
| _____ young families 25-40 | _____ |
| _____ Catholic elementary school children | _____ |
| _____ teens | _____ |
| _____ single/young to middle aged | _____ |
| _____ single parent families | _____ |
| _____ newcomers to our parish | _____ |
| _____ sick/shut-ins/hospitalized/nursing homes | _____ |
| _____ divorced | _____ |
| _____ separated | _____ |
| _____ re-married | _____ |
| _____ widowed | _____ |
| _____ empty nesters | _____ |
| _____ older folks living alone/retired | _____ |
| _____ unemployed people | _____ |
| _____ children in public schools | _____ |

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SECTION II

GOAL 1 (from the Bishops' Pastoral, *Go and Make Disciples* (GMD))

To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others. (GMD pg 33,34,35,36)

Check items that you are currently doing in your parish. If the items are not currently in place in your parish, consider how you might implement them if they will further your parish's evangelization efforts.

A. HOW DOES THE PARISH PROVIDE FOR THE FAITH DEVELOPMENT AND ON-GOING CONVERSION PROCESS FOR ALL THE PARISHIONERS?

To foster this experience of on-going conversion and renewal do we provide any of the following strategies:

- ___ parish renewal programs?
- ___ retreats?
- ___ a variety of prayer experiences?
- ___ scripture meditation/study?
- ___ liturgy of the hours?
- ___ quiet space for personal prayer in an intimate environment (chapel)?
- ___ youth retreat program?
- ___ marriage encounter?
- ___ faith sharing groups?
- ___ devotional prayer forms e.g. stations of the cross?
- ___ RC IA?
- ___ inactive/alienated program?
- ___ liturgy of word for children?

B. AS MEMBERS OF THIS PARISH, HOW DO PEOPLE'S LIVES CHANGE AND DEEPEN SO AS TO BRING ABOUT AN ENTHUSIASM FOR THEIR FAITH IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY DESIRE TO BRING OTHERS TO IT?

1. In order to foster this change do we provide opportunities for an appreciation of *God's Word* in our lives through: (GMD pg 34)

- ___ a developmental study of scripture program?
- ___ scriptural sharing centered around the lectionary?
- ___ a praying with scripture process for small groups?
- ___ scripture shared from an everyday living focus?
- ___ solid scripture based homilies?

2. Do we foster Eucharist as *central* to our community life by setting up strategies for: (GMD pg 34)

- ___ greeting and welcoming?
- ___ creating prayer-filled liturgy with active participation?
- ___ making worship accessible to everyone in the parish community e.g. physically, language?
- ___ giving careful attention to the visible rituals in word, song, decor, environment and sense of people assembled as a community?
- ___ providing social interaction before, and after the parish Eucharist?
- ___ having the leadership of the presider and lay ministers well prepared?

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3. Does the presence of Christ in all our sacramental celebrations draw the parish community into the sacred signs of Catholic life by having: (GMD pg 34 & 35)
 - _____ co-sponsors at infant baptisms?
 - _____ parish witnesses and support people at marriage of parishioners?
 - _____ comforters, support and faith builders at time of death of parishioners?
 - _____ healers and peacemakers together being visible signs of community reconciliation?
 - _____ sponsors and faith companions for RCIA and young adult Confirmation?

- C. HOW DOES THE PARISH PROVIDE ON-GOING CONVERSION FOR ALL PEOPLE AT ALL STAGES OF THEIR LIVES? (GMD pg 35 & 36)
 1. Do we foster a deeper sense of prayer by encouraging:
 - _____ personal time for prayer daily?
 - _____ family prayer ways/meals, etc.?
 - _____ communal prayer in small groups or larger parish groups?

 2. Do we have:
 - _____ processes of adult education?
 - _____ the formulation of catechetical materials in clear, easy to grasp language?
 - _____ the involvement of Directors of Religious Education in key roles of planning for evangelization?

 3. Is a committed sense of discipleship promoted among parishioners? Are we providing:
 - _____ the development of catechetical curricula along themes of discipleship and evangelization?
 - _____ training and formation for strong lay leadership?
 - _____ key prayer events that lead to transforming the work place?
 - _____ widespread call to active involvement in ministry and service in attractive forms for all age groups?

 4. Do we need to enhance active participation in a personal way by creating *Small Communal Groups* through:
 - _____ groups which share, experience and apply the Good News?
 - _____ neighborhood support groups?
 - _____ parish associations?
 - _____ prayer and faith development groups for couples/families?
 - _____ which parishioners might be “falling through the cracks?”

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SECTION III

GOAL 2 (from *Go and Make Disciples*)

To invite all people in the United States, whatever their social or cultural background, to hear the message of salvation in Jesus Christ so they may come to join us in the fullness of the Catholic faith. (GMD pg 37)

A. HOW DOES THE PARISH REACH OUT AND WELCOME PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO AFFILIATION OR WHO HAVE GIVEN UP ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AS MEMBERS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH (GMD pg 37)

1. Do we foster an attitude of welcome and invitation in the following areas of our parish:
 - _____ at the rectory/parish center to the “caller” or visitor, parishioner or stranger?
 - _____ at the church entrance and within, in a welcoming environment?
 - _____ in the use of our school and other parish buildings?
 - _____ in our educational programs?
 - _____ for families of every type? singles?
 - _____ in workshops which promote training strategies in welcoming?
 - _____ by promoting availability and access to all parish resources?
2. Do we help parishioners become comfortable sharing their faith? (GMD. pg 38, 39,40,41)
 - _____ at personal level of relationship?
 - _____ as families with neighbors and friends?
 - _____ as “faith companions,” sponsors, and support people in the parish programs?
 - _____ in workplace situations?
 - _____ in social situations?
3. Do we use those “special times” in parish and family life to invite people to reflect on their faith experience: (GMD pg 38,39)
 - _____ young couples for pre-marriage preparation including Engagement Ritual Blessing?
 - _____ senior high school/college students graduation rituals, drivers license?
 - _____ junior high teen activities?
 - _____ parish involvement in the celebration of marriage for parishioners?
 - _____ follow-up newly-weds to show support and interest?
 - _____ baptismal preparation and on-going sponsorship for the couple and child?
 - _____ sacraments of initiation RCIA adults/Youth confirmation?
 - _____ First Eucharist/Reconciliation times?
 - _____ support for bereaved with parish participation?
 - _____ crisis care in times of illness or crisis either personal or family?
4. Do we reach out through the “ordinary” functions of our parish at our gathering place in the Church?
 - _____ Do we have welcoming people at every liturgy/greeters?
 - _____ After Eucharist do we extend parish hospitality?
 - _____ Do we know who the “new corners” or “visitors” are and do we welcome them in a special way?
 - _____ Do we encourage people to exchange friendly interaction in the church?
 - _____ Does the presider formally welcome people?
 - _____ Do we celebrate with specific people special events at our parish liturgical celebrations?

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- Do the external and internal building environments have a welcoming appeal to those passing or entering?
5. Around the Parish...
- Are we aware of those not present from around the parish?
- Do we have a home visitation program?
- Do we have regular parish representatives visiting hospitals/nursing homes and sick home-bound people?
- Do we have a process for recording names of people who might welcome a visit from a parish staff member?
- Do we mail out or hand deliver Christmas cards/Easter cards from our parish to a whole neighborhood?
- Do we advertise in our local media special programs, e.g., Lenten speakers or groups, parish services and groups, time for Eucharist?
- Do we have an attractive brochure stating "Who we are" as our parish community and a welcome invitation?
- Do we have a video on "This Is Our Parish?"
6. Do we have sensitive people ready to offer a sincere attitude of welcome to alienated Catholics such as:
- the divorced?
- separated?
- remarried?
- those who are hurting?
- the hungry?
- those stressed by tragedy?
- the emotionally burdened?
- victims of violence or anyone feeling isolated or alone in our community?
7. Do we know what forms of spiritual support and liturgical prayer meet personal stages of life?
- Do we consider a small, more intimate focus of prayer?
- Do we have an environment setting suitable for smaller prayer, sacraments and Eucharistic celebrations?
- Do we have home-based celebrations?
- Is a rectory chapel or a smaller section of main church, side/back chapel usable for personal prayer?
8. Do we invite people to R.C.I.A. or returning Catholics to re-membering processes?
- Do we believe seriously enough in these processes for all in the community to participate in some way?
- Do we stress and encourage hospitality as a form of community outreach?

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SECTION IV

GOAL 3 (from *Go and Make Disciples*)

To foster Gospel values in our society, promoting the dignity of the human person and the common good of our society, so that our nation may continue to be transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ.

(GMD pg 41)

A. HOW DOES OUR PARISH BOTH REFLECT AND FOSTER THESE GOSPEL VALUES IN OUR SOCIETY AS WELL AS IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY?

1. How do we see our parish as a central place from which Gospel values in our society are fostered?
2. How is the dignity of the human person and the common good of all constantly being promoted among all members of our parish community?
3. Do we arouse awareness and cultivate an active core of the parish community to bring before all parishioners issues of society by:
 - _____ an active humans concern committee in the parish? formation sessions?
 - _____ workshops on specific areas addressing explicit concerns relating to daily living in our Western society, e.g.
 - _____ Women in Society
 - _____ Wealth vs. Poverty
 - _____ Education for Life
 - _____ Cultural Diversity
 - _____ Diverse Family Forms
 - _____ Children lacking a stable home environment
 - _____ Children often over-indulged by materialism
 - _____ Environmental care of the earth in every day living
 - _____ Media and its impact on us
 - _____ Respect for all of life
 - _____ Violence as a frequent norm in all forms of life
 - _____ Youth unemployment
 - _____ Conflict in all areas of life
 - _____ Stress/Pressure/Insecurity/Power
 - _____ Greed/Competition
 - _____ Do we network with other community groups seeking to address similar societal issues?
4. Do we use the obvious means to challenge all in our parish community to bring our faith into life and make a difference in our own city and nation?
 - _____ Liturgy and worship
 - _____ Bulletins
 - _____ Parish journal/magazine/newsletter
 - _____ Poster displays
 - _____ Informal discussion over coffee after Eucharist
 - _____ Link up with city/local community days/events
 - _____ Sponsor ecumenical workshops, rallies and events.

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5. Do we consider possibilities of small cluster and/or neighborhood communities within our larger parish community to set up support systems for parishioners seeking to live by gospel values?
____ Do we have formation opportunities?
____ Do we have core team leaders to assist establishment of a cluster group?
6. Do we, as a parish, use our material resources to benefit all and reach out beyond ourselves to involve all parish groups to service needs in our neighborhood and beyond?
Do we create opportunities for:
____ raising awareness of needs inviting a response?
____ making works of justice and love parish priorities?
____ setting specific targets for the parish to be “on mission in service” beyond their own area?
____ networking with “poorer parishes”?
7. Have we called forth responsible voices to contribute in areas of public policy such as:
____ setting up parish education programs with social justice focus?
____ political choices/conscience formation programs?
____ support groups for professional parishioners in all areas, especially law, economics, and social services?
____ encouraging parish people to run for and hold public office?
____ legislative advocacy?
____ writing letters supporting specific legislation?
____ participating in church based community efforts?

SECTION V

CONCLUSION

Where does active participation in ministry fit into the fundamental reasons for our parish’s existence?

Do we believe our parish can exist or survive without ministries or active participation?

Why does our parish exist?

To what do we welcome people into when we invite them into our parish community?

“I have come that you may have life and have it to the full.”

For information on evangelization programs in the diocese, please contact:



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