

Subcommittee Report Recommendations for SMOS Strategic Plan

Social Activities

Subcommittee:

- Carol Wilmes, Bridget Blaes, Tom Reitenbach, Elaine Burrus, Valerie Hahn, Peggy Redfern, Steve Werner, Janet Braun, Julio Zegarra-Ballon

Scope:

Our focus was on the opportunities for interaction, service and fun within the parish community.

Data Utilized:

Data was gathered from the SLU report, parishioner survey, organization surveys, and committee group input

Summary of Findings

We as a parish need greater young adult and teen activities, there is a separation between the school and parish, the activities that are happening at both the school and parish are not effectively communicated to the general parish (i.e. Immediate need for a calendar of events- not just meetings), need for Holy Name/ Men's Club, need for a Welcome Committee that will reach out not only to newly registered families but also to the neighborhood and transient people that come through our church doors.

Strengths

- Participation of non-catholic members involved in our parish activities
- Willingness and interest to community life
- Progressive and richly talented group of parishioners
- Intentional city and community focused people
- Vibrant area in city for social activities (i.e. Parks, South Grand, Shaw)
- Loyal, supportive parishioners
- Rich liturgical life feeds into deepening communal relationships

Weakness:

- Lack of volunteers stepping forward to lead
- Lack of "cash"
- Lack of systems to ensure activities to fulfill parish social activities
- Concerns about neighborhood crime
- Lack of communication
- Not many purely social activities currently provided
- Facility concerns (accessibility, parking, etc.)

Opportunities

- Empowering laity

- New parishioners with new vitality, ideas and leadership
- As result of strategic planning, new interest by volunteers to fulfill needs
- Reorganization of South city has created an awareness to reach out to new members and to deepen existing relationships
- To increase membership with new parishioners
- Enrich our diversity of race and religion

Threats:

- "Cash", funding for staff and events
- Diminishing Catholic population
- Perceived too busy with other obligations to fully participate in parish life
- social circles are more focused outside of parish
- Negative media and genuine concerns about Catholic scandals- safety at church activities
- Dwindling priests available to serve parish

Recommendation - We recommend that someone(s) be appointed to review that the social activities goals are being met or exceeded yearly. Immediately establish a Men's Club, Arts Committee, Welcome Committee, and a teen and young adult ministry. From the Pastoral leadership thru to laity be mindful of extending welcome and community to fellow members and neighbors, to become more deeply connected in the SMOS parish life. A system must be created for informing all parishioners and the neighborhood of all activities available. Finally, search out and create the financial support needed via grants or stewardship in kind, for those unable to finance social opportunities.

Goal/Objective/Strategies - see matrix attached

List any possible impact on other subcommittee.

- Liturgy Commission- liturgical suggestions
- Formation for Faith & Life- teens and young adults
- Finance Committee- cash
- Facilities- accessibility and use of facilities
- Parish Structure- new committees... Men's, Welcome, and Arts

Final Comments

We feel that providing a strong social base of opportunities is essential, so people from all walks of life are able to meet, greet and network. Thus, we will lend to and foster fellowship therefore, to know, love and serve Christ through one another more deeply.