

Pastoral Planning – January 9, 2014

ST. MARY'S GROUP C

STRENGTHS

- 1 Meets financial obligation to parish and diocese
- 2 Willing workers for church events
- 3 Willing to work with other churches in the spirit of brotherly love (ecumenical)
{St. Mary's Parish has a great strength in Father Steve – who already has done so much for our parish}
[Strengths in St. Mary's School]
[School – RE Program – Faith Alive Program – Education of the people]
{We are a small parish where everyone knows one another which makes it easier to work together}
{Dedicated women's group}
{Good men's group}

WEAKNESSES/IMPROVE

- 1 Fear of change
- 2 Need to get younger people involved
- 3 Make people feel more welcomed/valued
- 4 Need more knowledge of the Bible/beliefs
- 5 Too many “bosses”
- 6 Too many followers

OPPORTUNITIES

- 1 Make a list of younger people who may get involved, “if” they are asked to do so – ages 18-39
- 2 Collaboration possibilities
- 3 Welcome visits to homes of new parishioners and neighbors
- 4 Get parents to bring their children to church every Sunday
- 5 Publish our good work – help the less fortunate
- 6 Live our faith and beliefs

CHALLENGES/TRENDS

- 1 Consumerism
- 2 Try to get some of the fallen-away Catholics of St. Mary's to return to the church
- 3 Exodus from the area – reason to stay
- 4 Get a lay assistant or deacon to help Father Steve
- 5 Apathy – don't need God
- 6 Form Bible study groups
- 7 Wednesday is not church night and Sundays are not Sundays anymore
- 8 Inability to shut out the “noise” to hear God speak to us

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ST. MARY'S GROUP D

STRENGTHS

- 19 Good choir
- 19 People working together
- 13 Society and Council pull together
- 12 School and amazing staff
- 10 New, younger priest serving us
- 3 Memorial fund
- 3 Generosity of our members – fund issues

WEAKNESSES/IMPROVE

- 19 Increase of membership
- 15 Involvement of young people
- 7 Believing in our leaders of the church
- 5 Youth Ministry
- 5 More participation of people
- 6 Musical group
- 2 Too many chiefs and not enough Indians
- 1 Dealing with our changing times

OPPORTUNITIES

- 20 Combining Council and Committee
- 13 Sharing resources
- 12 Strength in numbers
- 10 Sharing principal and music teacher
- 5 Growth

CHALLENGES/TRENDS

- 19 Keeping the bills paid
- 13 Decline of population in community
- 13 Getting more people to come to Mass
- 11 Smaller families
- 4 Small town

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ST. MARY'S GROUP E

STRENGTHS

- 20 Catholic School
- 16 Many volunteers
- 16 Dedicated people
- 13 Willing to work together
- 0 Church in good shape

WEAKNESSES/IMPROVE

- 16 Get young people involved
- 15 School is of financial liability
- 14 Disengaged mentors
- 13 Organizations and structures
- 10 Lack of socializing
- 4 No song leader
- 2 Few people doing most of the work
- 1 Welcome new parishioners

OPPORTUNITIES

- 22 Offer quality Catholic education
- 14 Organize our members to support others in their time of need
- 14 Revival of the church
- 13 More people to do more programs
- 7 Base group to be activated
- 5 Open minded to others
- 0 Church uniformity would set a good Christian example for the communities
- 0 Evangelization opportunities

CHALLENGES/TRENDS

- 16 Declining population/membership
- 16 Disengaged young parishioners
- 15 Competing priorities
- 13 Aging membership
- 11 Decreasing number of priests
- 2 Lack of organization and structure
- 2 Small rural communities have limited work opportunities
- 0 Economy