**Albia, St. Mary Georgetown, St. Patrick & Lovilia, St. Peter**

Vision 20/20: From Pentecost to Pentecost Convocation

Diocese of Davenport -- June 6-8, 2019 St. Ambrose University

**Parish/Entity Conversation**

**Questions we discussed:**

1. What did we hear?
2. Do not look at the now, but look at the future.
3. Accompaniment: means helping others. An example would be like how we accompany our RCIA candidates. Long term: how can we do that? How can we continue this work of evangelization long term as we accompany our people?
4. Love All Catholics!! Be aware of the own journey, do not judge anyone.
5. We need to listen to others.
6. We have already set up plans, programs, systems and put evangelization pieces in place in our parishes and been pro-active. For example: we have had an evangelization team in place for nine years.
7. Be intentional...we are doing that!
8. Invite our priest to dinner, lunch, go on vacation, include him in our lives.
9. BE BOLD and DIFFERENT!
10. Ask our parish members, families, friends “why are you not coming to weekly mass” and “what would help you return to church and to practice your Catholic faith?”
11. Youth Focus...for instance our teen and 20’s people--get them engaged.
12. Show our community how much JOY we have as Catholics!!
13. Do not gossip and put our church down within our community
14. NONE is our increasing statistic: so we need to evangelize our youth to stop this statistic from growing and somehow pull the parents in with them.
15. Provide food to generate hospitality...it really works for youth (and probably everyone else too!)
16. Do not run our parish and church like a corporation.

B. What does it mean for our parish/entity?

1. We need to provide experience based opportunities for evangelization:
2. for example have a Saints visit to St. Patrick’s in Georgetown to incorporate all the wonderful saint statues, & a Sacrament visit to Albia, to view the stained glass windows that explain them & a visit to St. Peter, Lovilia to view the stained glass windows and the biblical stories they tell. This would be an adult education opportunity. Food would be provided.
3. Fishing Day: for young people and kids and have a reading, pray and talk about Genesis and the creation story.
4. Pet Day: for kids to bring their pets to have them blessed and then have a St. Francis lesson and pray.
5. The goal is to think out of the box---think of new ways to draw adults and kids together.
6. ASK THE PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT! And then somehow have Catholic teaching, or prayer incorporated and build relationships. For example: have everyone bring their phones and share Catholic apps and pray together. (Laudate is a great one!) The possibilities are endless.

2. Encourage all parishioners to extend an invitation to invite everyone to our church. Adults and youth and little ones.

3. Have “Open Mic Night” or “Share your Faith Story Night” at church or during CCD and invite the older parishioners to share their faith story with the kids. We cross the generations this way.

4. Ask people in and out of the church what their vision, gift or passion is and somehow use that in our parish to evangelize them and others. Ask them “what can we do to bring you back?”

5. REVIVE for youth and continue with NCYC trips and use those who attend REVIVE and NCYC to be leaders for our youth.

6. Welcome: continue with greeters and all parishioners reach out at masses to include those sitting alone.

7. Use Vision 20/20 audio and video presentations and put them on our parish website and offer as classes.

8. Host an International Dinner again.

9. Develop a Tri-Parish Bulletin (this is in process).

10. Develop a Snap-Chat and Instagram account for our parish in order to reach out to our youth.

11. Develop mass text messages to send memos out to families for CCD. Flock-Notes??

12. Develop a parish fundraiser for St. Mary, Albia (Georgetown and Lovilia both have this in place).

13. Educate our parishes about our church finances.

C. What help do we need?

1. We all need to help each other.
2. We need a technology person, work on Facebook, Snap-Chat, Instagram accounts; work on Wi-Fi issues; work on more technology available in CCD classrooms.
3. Use diocesan resources: let them know we are a rural parish and have very different needs than the urban parishes. We pray for support and open communication from the diocesan offices.
4. We may need extra funds from our parishes to fulfill all the evangelization needs.
5. We need the help of Jesus in all our endeavors and to keep our eyes and ears on the Trinity and not the current culture.

Delegations from St. Mary, Albia & St. Patrick, Georgetown, as well as Father Mark Yates were present at the convocation to contribute answers to these questions requested by our Bishop, Thomas Zinkula, and offices from the Diocese of Davenport.

Recorded by Vicki Gardner

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