

Parishes – Moving From Good to Great Resources

Books

“Dreams and Visions” A book by Bill Huebsch. Twenty Third Publications 2007. An excellent review of Catholic Church teaching on parish and faith formation. Presents a vision for parish that moves beyond the typical. Additional resources and information at www.pastoralplanning.com

“Forming Generous Hearts – Stewardship Planning for Lifelong Faith Formation” A book by Leisa Anslinger and Victoria Shepp. An excellent overview of stewardship and practical ideas on how to unlock and release the gifts of parishioners and thereby renew the parish. Twenty –Third Publications. Copyright 2007. More information at www.thegenerousheart.com

“Excellent Catholic Parishes” A book by Paul Wilkes. Paulist Press 2001. Based on a study of Catholic parishes throughout the United States. The book highlights the stories of these parishes and also provides a listing of about 300 great parishes. Additional Information available at www.people.uncw.edu/wilkesp/churchstudy

“The Catholic Parish: Hope for A Changing World” by Robert J. Hater. Paulist Press 2004. A good review of parish – historically, at present, and a vision for the future in light of current cultural realities.

“From Maintenance to Mission” A book by Fr. Robert S Rivers. Paulist Press 2005. The sub-title says it all – Evangelization and the Revitalization of the Parish.

Articles

“What Makes Great Parishes Different” by David Delambo. 2007. Research article published on the web site of the Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership Project. A study of the characteristics of parishes identified as vitally strong and alive. Download article at www.emergingmodels.org

“The Parish: A New Mission Field” An address by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin reprinted in Origins 9/13/07 Vol. 37 #14 An excellent review of the state of the parish life, its current challenges and future hopes.

“The Mission of the Contemporary Parish” An address given by Bishop Howard Hubbard reprinted in Origins 1/20/05 Vol. 34 #31. A hope and faith filled look at parish life.

“Opportunity Knocks: A Parish Leadership Development Model”. An address by Fr. Robert Duggan reprinted in Origins 6/14/07 Vol. 37 # 5. A model of parish utilizing stewardship principles including parish gift discernment and leadership training committees.

Cross Denominational Resources

“Growing An Engaged Church” A book by Albert L Winseman. Gallup Press 2006. Inter-denominational reflections on how to move community members from being merely involved to truly engaged and thereby growing the church. Based on years of Gallup Poll research. More information at www.gallupfaith.com & www.allaboutchurchengagement.com

FACT - A study by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research to determine what factors led congregations to grow and which contributed to the likelihood of decline.
www.FACT.hartsem.edu

“REVEAL – Where Are You?” A book by Hawkins and Parkinson. Willow Creek Resources 2007. A presentation of the results of a self study done by one of the fastest growing evangelical churches in America. Provides some interesting implications and challenges for Catholic parishes. More information at www.revealnow.com

Miscellaneous

Best Practices for Catholic Parishes - is a self study and action planning tool developed by the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association. This tool helps parish leaders to assess the mission statement and building blocks of the parish. See www.bestpracticesforparishes.org

Standards for Excellence – An Ethics and Accountability Code for Catholic Parishes – Developed by the Ntl Leadership Roundtable on Church Management. A set of standards primarily for assessing the parish management system. See www.nlrcm.org

Gift Discernment & Releasing Resources

Living Your Strengths – Discovering Your God Given Talents and Inspire Your Community – Catholic Edition - a book written by Winseman, Clifton & Lifesveld – members of the Gallup Poll Organization. Based on solid research. Includes the Clifton **StrengthsFinder** tool. This online survey helps individuals to identify and affirm your talents and shows you how to use them for growth and service in your parish. Can be purchased at most bookstores or online through Amazon or Barnes and Noble. For more information check out the website www.gallupfaith.com Also check the information at www.catholicstrengths.com

Forming Generous Hearts – Stewardship Planning for Lifelong Faith Formation – A book by Leisa Anslinger and Victoria Shepp that provides a theological, spiritual and practical approach to stewardship through the unlocking and nurturing of parishioner gifts. Key tool recommended to accomplish this is **Living Your Strengths** noted above. Available through Twenty-Third Publications, New London, CT – copyright 2007. www.thegenerousheart.com

Catherine of Siena Institute – Simply stated their mission is to equip parishes to form lay apostles. The key way in which they do this is through the provision of a broad range of resources, books, personal gifts surveys, workshops, etc. in support of an excellent Catholic Spiritual Gifts Discernment Program. For more information go to their website at www.siena.org

New Beginnings – developed by Paul Wilkes, author of the book “Excellent Catholic Parishes” This is an easy to use multi-media, three hour, three part course that takes parishioners on a life changing journey. It includes a survey instrument called TAP – that helps individuals get in touch with their Talents, Aptitudes and Purpose. More information online at www.nbontheweb.com

Christ Renews His Parish - this is a weekend retreat renewal program that is offered at the parish. It has been described as a kind of a Cursillo weekend that is offered in parishes. Highly successful at unlocking and animating the faith of parishioners for service in the parish. For more information contact the diocesan department of Stewardship and Pastoral Services at pastserv@gbdioc.org

This list prepared by Mark Mogilka, MSSW, MA, Director of Stewardship and Pastoral Services – Diocese of Green Bay. Feel free to copy and share. Any questions or suggestions of additional resources, drop Mark a note at mmogilka@gbdioc.org