

## Diocesan Assembly Theme 1 FAITH FORMATION

### Reflecting on this topic, what would a parish or diocese living the joy of the Gospel be like?

A parish

1. With hope and optimism
2. Encouraging people to meeting in small groups.
3. Language is crucial in faith-formation, sacraments, celebrations and need to be adapted in making them relevant
4. Conversation with everyday believers with the idea of informing and forming conscience
5. Each person has a place to play in liturgy
6. Resources for Baptism and Marriage preparation so young parents can transform faith
7. Positive and nurturing
8. that supports formation and spreads the knowledge and education in faith.
9. which is an inclusive community, not just as 1 or few people in the parish to have that responsibility but as a whole parish that reflects joy is really welcoming
10. where Joy can't be manufactured, but that comes from truly coming from God. Knowing that he is real and that fills you up and that becomes contagious.
11. Parishioners spread awareness: how do we deliver the message. Create curiosity by having Faith and Joy in God. Formation of adults, need more knowledge and pass it on.
  - a. One that is honest and open. One that is willing to "seek ways of expressing unchanging truths in a language which brings out their abiding newness." The church should be actively trying to engage and involve people who are not actively involved within the Church. We should be able to break down the denominations of the Christian faiths, and other faiths, and be inviting, welcome, and comfortable. People have fear to share their faith - we cannot tell people what to do but we still pray for people. We affect others by our example/actions which may inspire people in ways in which we do not know.
12. Reflecting on this scripture and Pope Francis - our first non-negotiable is our encounter with God and then automatically we go out and share with confidence because we cannot but help share.
13. We should have age- relevant prayer activities to engage people eg. Youth mass and Prayer meetings, Kids masses with Catechism taught, Adults- Alpha program because of which people wanted to engage in church activities (people who were previously living on the periphery), Catholic based Bible studies (eg Jeff Cavans), Family prayer- rosary encouraged.
14. Adult formation - speakers who can revitalize our faith, Sacraments explained in an age appropriate manner
15. Connect with young people/students through food eg. Bible study followed by meal on a Friday night has worked well
16. Parishes which full of people with all ages and full of joy would be an ideal parish living the joy of the Gospel
17. Each parish is different and has a prominence of different age groups who look after each other

- Know people and their families - taking time to talk to people  
 Welcoming atmosphere  
 There are still a lot of people going to mass  
 Nourishing Liturgies which make parishes vibrant and joyful  
 Cannot pass on what you don't have - ETERNAL WORD TELEVISION NETWORK EWTN  
 websites/app/TV and CATHOLIC ANSWERS (website) and SHALOM WORLD
18. Have programs in the evening, Sunday when people can come to programs to learn - Parish Bowls/
  19. Church should be humble, natural and guided by love  
 Church should be welcoming which includes everyone  
 Connecting with all generations.  
 Groups happy to take on ministries  
 Listen through the ears of God, see through the eyes of God and love through the heart of God.
  20. Sacramental programs are not known by all parishioners it would be good for everyone to share in this knowledge  
 Open doors and communication between parish schools and parish, including accessibility.  
 Providing opportunities for adult formation, perhaps networking between parishes would assist in this - there is a bit of a disconnect
  21. Forum where there's an ability to discuss formation and other issues  
 An opportunity to talk to others who go to mass on particular readings as well as the Gospel  
 Spiritual formation to reflect Gods plans. Share with each other their own spirituality, short bursts of activities to share
  22. Use technology to reach out to others who are not parishioners
  23. Gender inclusive language, disconnect at the moment between Church language and everyday life language
  24. Engagement and participation through imaginative inspired artistic and inventive ways of deepening interaction for the laity particularly at Mass  
 Look. For creative ways in which we share the Good News by using human senses, touch, sight, hearing, taste, hearing is the only one we use at mass. There are resource out there to help but we don't know what they are or how to access them
  25. Everyone should away from Mass with the joy of the Gospel  
 We don't share our gifts and talents with each other in parishes and in the diocese  
 Nurture a people that want to be Catholics but also continue to nurture them after as well, don't stop and assume everything is alright now
  26. Change focus from teachings of the Church to focussing on the joy of the Gospel  
 We need to have a follow up and ongoing faith formation after the sacraments not stop after they have their baptism or communion
  27. It would be a church that:
  28. Act simply and "do"
  29. Finding what individuals can offer and using those talents.
  30. Gives opportunity to offer faith formation from children through to the older generation as learning is life-long.
  31. A place that allows opportunities to share traditional catholic practices from the older gen while the young showing them a more contemporary approach and each generation taking time to listen to the other.
  32. Embracing the children/youth by coming together for faith formation through scriptures.
  33. Visiting the disengaged to ask "why" and "what can we do"
  34. A place that practices outreach to connect others, taking mass out into the world.

35. Engaging young parents to develop the "family centred" element of Sales Diocese sacramental program.
36. A place where families who can't send their children to catholic schools still feel a part of the church and don't feel they have made a gap between them and the church.
37. Delivering content in a variety of ways that connects at different levels etc.  
Praying the Rosary, a form of meditation/mindfulness in faith.  
Having children choir at mass ie once a month.  
Social network groups on a variety of platforms. ie groups like ALPHA, technology based platforms

#### A church that

38. is being a 'Church' that sends people out as a 'Church' to spread the mass out into the world.
39. Inclusive - everyone has something to offer by "doing"  
Parishioners being active  
Growing in love  
Being involved  
Everyone needs encouragement  
A constant challenge
40. Change the way faith is presented to people  
- more people involved in sacramental preparation ?previous parents  
- different way of teaching children  
- changing world
41. Faith formation changes being instigated in schools - need to be followed up by parishes - being contemporary  
Endeavouring to understand our own faith to pass it on  
Encouraging - especially encouraging children to bring parents to church!  
Forming family groups to be the "domestic church"  
Connecting older parishioners with children through scripture - eg craft for Christ  
Utilizing the Holy Spirit to help with faith formation - being brave and bold, speaking out  
Understanding the Church's teachings CST - putting into practice eg not using plastic plates for social functions, recycling
42. The parish living the joy of the Gospel
43. would be adventurous, not be timid about living the Gospel, be reflective and attentive to the needs of the people, speak a language that appeals to all ages and all ethnicities, a language of love and acceptance- A parish that looks like a Field Hospital....in action all the time
44. Engage in faith formation that is engaging and interactive without losing the richness and the traditions of our faith.
45. When more parishes begin to look like Field Hospitals. the Diocese will radiate the joy of the Gospel.
46. Learn from other non-Catholic churches.  
Musical groups within schools.  
Testimonies of parishioners of faithful about their knowledge and skill ,sharing the conman challenges  
Safe environment for discussions.  
simple pathways to access faith formation.  
supporting each other through sacraments and values.  
Should be a dynamic and vibrant and filled with spirit.  
Priorities for praise and worship.  
Our own foundations, tell the stories of Jesus. How to fit the stories in the light of the

Gospels? Live out the Gospel.

Faith formation for adults - a parish living the gospel has room to discuss and encourage ask questions,

Use avenues to build faith.

Have an active, vibrant and welcoming community. Living the gospel in the Modern era- young people to be motivated to realise the goodness in them is a reflection of the living word- Re contextualisation.

47. Always be ready to give an answer to explain your faith, in our cultural diversity be more open to share our faith, have a plan/mission for the parish incorporating our formation as per the needs of our community, more faith formation opportunities for adults to understand our rich aspects of the Catholic faith, keep Jesus in the centre , living the Gospel values will bring the fruit of peace, displaying forgiveness and mercy, compassion, mercy, supports each others, a parish that reaches outside the church - marginalised, do small things with great love, small little steps , eg - grace before family meals, to get curiosity and enquiry of our faith, conversations happening, a parish that offers lots of groups to encourage people to learn and grow spirituality, eg prayer, morning tea's, bible study, Responsibility that young people are hope filled, the challenge is linking school & parish to be reconnected so we can nourish the new generation, other/new opportunities for young people to receive the sacraments to be fully initiated as members of the catholic faith, needs to be more engaging for younger people, hope filled church
48. A notice board sharing the literature that would help the laity, a Library perhaps, faith formation depends on hope. How do we be authentic witnesses of hope itself how do we pass it on to others. So as to help. The tension between being obedient to the word of god. We don't have all the answers but prayer helps. Be not afraid. To search in a community way.
49. Family groups that form a conduit to share the faith an outlet. To share the craving for faith development. For 'resting' Catholics we need to make it be a missionary parish in the larger context we need to come together the smaller churches. How can we sustain the small communities? The small groups ... what will the church look like in 30 years' time. We need to make radical changes how can we pass our faith the joy of the gospel is contagious the youth should be focussed on by perhaps focusing on liturgy. To develop a sense of liturgy through non Eucharistic liturgies first. The schools and the parish need to be on the same plane. Alpha for youth: an evangelisation tool for kids. If people are searching, they are ready to make the commitment. We. Wait in joyful hope. We have to be hope filled. Beauty is of God. Good music is a draw card. Music that is relevant. Strategic selection of songs.
50. Joyful. Filled with peace. Visible presence on a wider community. Active rather than passive: a "doing" youth to learn the faith. Accessible sacramentally. Remembering sacramental grace. Supportive community (within community and with outreach). 24/7 Christians. Celebratory. Opportunities for growth. Resourced. Encouraging. Nourishing at school AND the home. Being ready to engage the uncomfortable. Rich with treasure. Active outreach. Openness for encountering Christ in others in the poor. Welcoming without criticism. United schools and parishes. Vibrant.
51. Formation needs to begin with those on the margins: with the C+E Catholics. Look for opportunistic teaching moments. Supporting of teachers who are witnesses of Christ for their students.  
Time with the parish community, with scripture, in service, exposes families to the church;

but we are time poor.

Prayer life: more than a rosary or before meals, but sometimes that is all families do.

52. Equip people to understand their faith - why we do what we do and how it forms our mission.

Name what people do as expressions of faith and the gospel eg people working in the Vinnie's shop

- a. Faith formation through service to the community.

Social justice groups appeal to younger people. Establishment of social justice activities can allow for faith formation, faith in action and great community/friendships.

53. We need to invite people in - not when we need things but to create a community where faith can be shared.

Unpack the message so that it relates to the community - we are not all lepers and sick, but on the other side - we can be the healers

(Planned giving - has this destroyed community?)

54. Alpha course works well to start off faith development

Life in the Spirit - CCR type of course & charismatic prayer group - strong following

55. Faith formation can be developed through prayer groups - eg focus on mary but also look at how the saints viewed Mary. Group discussion is also a part of the prayer - allows people get to know each other. Letter box drop - outside parish data base.

Need to use appropriate language - does it address the audience properly

56. Many resources and styles of prayer are available in the Catholic toolbox. We need to delve into that treasure box and unpack the resources

Focus on gospels -- treasure trove. Each time we read them they give us something new.

Catholic education - meeting the needs of students to climb social ladder. Are they really having catholic formation? What does the catholic community want from its schools?

57. We need to encourage people to participate more fully in mass - some catechesis? We need inventive ways to engage people. Bulletins and overheads can distract from being fully engaged with the homilies and different parts of the mass.

Need to identify gaps between family tradition and church tradition.

Church tradition - we would be more aware of what the teach believes and teaches. Society believes one thing and holds to that - Catholics don't always understand that popular perception is not right.

There would be awareness that multiple different catholic rites and expressions of faith exist.

58. Faith formation needs to meet the needs of the community - target it at the right audience

Sacramental prep - family based preparation can lead to incorrect formation. Somehow

need to engage the family with the proper info about sacraments. There is a need to

educate families before the sacramental program starts so that the child is formed properly.

In England, Catholic school admission is based on parish participation. Need to be involved

in the parish to join the school. Here admission needs to be based on numbers. Faith

formation was being achieved better there.

59. Strong links between the school and the parish to allow for connection - parish needs a visible connection at the school. School ends parish life does not - need a relationship after school ends.

Schools are places of faith formation and handing the faith on - through families and staff. Staff members have wanted to join the catholic faith just through working at the school. Evangelisation has been made through the way things are done.

60. Divine office - small groups can join in. If priests and religious say their prayer in the church, it might encourage people to join with them (the hinge hours)

Faith and prayer can flow from community formation. Need to develop groups that support one another - eg soup van helps people to create a community that allows for faith formation and development. The vehicle for faith development does not need to be the church, it can be catholic groups. These groups need solid faith foundations. Well parishioners who are always practicing their faith, and are also in a position to explain it when asked.