

February 21, 2009

Annual Diocesan Director Meeting at the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering Discussion notes from Small Groups on Capacity Building and Economic Crisis

I. Capacity Building

What are our best, most creative ideas and practices for building diocesan capacity to do the work of global solidarity?

Notes from small group discussion on solutions for dioceses as they increase capacity building:

- Engage volunteers:
 - JustFaith graduates
 - Seminarians
 - Confirmation/High School service hours
 - Any interested folks
- Cultivate Network of 1 “go to” person in each parish for social justice work. (This person will lead parish in CRS, CC HD, etc.)
- Establish 10 “go to” people in each parish (keep database)
- Seeking Alliances, relationships for collaboration
- Develop parish global solidarity teams/ CRS advisory committees
- Recruit new leaders through RCIA, Just Faith, confirmation classes, using Journey through Justice Day (Intergenerational)
- Tap into existing networks to reach larger audiences...
- Tap into other diocesan departments (Hispanic Min., Youth & YA, HR)
 - Develop Global Solidarity Teams
- Skills training – facilitation, media relations, (for diocesan & parish leaders)
- Diocesan & parish global solidarity (CRS) committee
- Priests relationships – support receptive priests to discuss CRS with other priests.
- Strategic alliances & integration w/other diocesan offices:
 - Propagation of Faith
 - Hispanic Ministry
 - Other offices
 - Leverage contacts – JustFaith grads etc.
- Legislative Advocacy Network
 - Creative uses to link people to issues & each other.
 - To survey & learn for future projects.
- Relationship Building must be creative & comprehensive.
 - Advisory councils (lay people)
 - Multi-cultural
 - University & education circles
 - Match needs, interest, capacities – diocesan partners, leaders, ministries
- Technology
 - Be creative (webinars, videos, conference calls) to connect across distance.

- Resource creatively & thoroughly to foster knowledge and buy-in.
- Create/ depend on Diocesan Committee
- Network w/other Diocesan allies: Religious Education, Youth Ministry, Propagation of Faith
- Use brown bags luncheons/speakers to develop constituencies
- Speaker's Bureau:
 - Trained and/or presentation "in a can" geographically dispersed get through those who have been on CRS trips or have other overseas exp. Beyond committee members.

II. Economic Crisis

How do we focus on the economic hardships of people in other countries in the face of growing domestic poverty resulting from the global fiscal crises?

Notes from small group discussion on solutions for dioceses as they deal with the economic crisis:

- Use Fair Trade as practical activity that people can do to make a difference
- Building new leaders from globally interested folks in diocese (JustFaith, etc.)
- Education – link global & local realities.
- Building on family migration histories
- Establish work/dialogue in a spiritual framework –
 - starting point: Baptismal call
 - Who is our neighbor?
 - Spiritual images
 - Conversion
- Establish and/or deepen relationships & collaboration linking vision/courses
 - Pro-life Groups
 - Church leadership
 - Grassroots
 - Political leaders
 - People in the field (CRS, UN, NGOs)
- Lift up and celebrate successes and stories of hope that confront defeatism & fear
 - Both Catholic & secular Media
 - Youth & Youth Adults/communities
- Allow people to decide their own response after presenting the stories/needs/challenges- "Widow's Mite"
- International "Both/and" efforts & local/global by establishing sister parishes in the U.S. & overseas
- Emphasis on the message of our Global Church.
- Spirit of generosity...what DO we have?
 - Time, hugs, smiles, other resources
- Rice Bowl (Facilitate process for parishes/religious education programs)
- Sharing stories through available technology
 - Cyber bridges
 - Global Fellows
 - Parish – priest- pastor education
- Twining Parish/Diocese

- e.g. NO & Haiti Hurricane – India Tsunami
- Creative approach to CRS programs
 - Ghanaian Priest help promote parish chocolate sales
 - Parish “Fairgrounds” coffee shop