

Parish Ministry Groups

In each of our parishes there are a number of ministry groups that support and foster pastoral life, including sacramental teams, liturgy committees, music ministries, family groups, finance committees, grief and bereavement teams, the St Vincent de Paul Society, CCD, Legion of Mary, and youth ministries to name only a few. These groups are essential to the way in which a parish grows and shares its faith with others. Here are some suggestions on how your parish ministry group can start putting *Faith in Our Future* into action:

Step 1

Firstly, the leader of your parish ministry group should invite all members of the group to read *Faith in Our Future* to ensure everyone is familiar with the document. Ministry groups should read at least the vision statement of the Pastoral Plan (pp.10-12) and the parish actions that relate to their area of ministry (pp.17-25). Ministry groups may also find the Agency Actions of the Diocese of interest in their work (e.g. CCD actions related to catechists can be found on p.40).

While reading *Faith in Our Future*, invite group members to write down or highlight any points that stood out to them as particularly significant or relevant to the life and aspirations of your ministry group.

Step 2

Convene a meeting of your parish ministry group to discuss the Pastoral Plan. The purpose of this meeting is to discern those actions which could best be taken up in your area of ministry and to move towards implementation of those actions.

Begin the meeting with prayer (download and print "[Prayer Sheet #3](#)" from our website). Then, reflect on and discuss as a group how your parish ministry *currently responds* to the five pastoral priorities of the Diocese (e.g. How we currently respond: 'We have some young people serving as lectors'), writing your response into the worksheet below. This worksheet can be downloaded and printed from our website ("[Parish Ministry Group – Worksheet #1](#)").

Then, read through and select any parish actions that could help your ministry group *better respond* to each area of pastoral priority (e.g. Action 2.3.3, 'Through the invitation and training of young people for liturgical ministries with the support of the Office for Worship').



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	Supporting family life	Connecting better with the young	Building upon our ethnic diversity	Growing and supporting our laity	New evangelisation or outreach
How we currently respond to each pastoral priority		We have some young people serving as lectors.			
Selected actions that could help your group better respond to each priority in the coming year		Action 2.3.3 (Invitation and training of young people for liturgical ministries)			

Some criteria are offered below to assist your ministry group in discerning the best actions to undertake:

- i. Will this action enable our ministry group to respond better to the area of pastoral priority concerned?

- ii. If the action is suitable, what resources and people need to be engaged to make it a reality? With what other parish groups could we collaborate to bring this action to life?

- iii. How can our ministry group involve as many members of our parish in this action as appropriate and possible? Also, how can we engage this action as a means of evangelisation, reaching out and involving those who are not strongly connected to the Church or even not yet a part of our parish?

- iv. Does this action involve any significant costs that need to be raised with the parish priest or parish finance committee?

- v. Within what time frame will this action be implemented? (e.g. within 6 months; by the end of 2014; by the end of 2015...)

- vi. How will we review the effectiveness of this action as a ministry group in growing and sharing the faith of our community? That is, what are the signs that will tell us this action is bearing fruit? How will we share these outcomes with the parish priest, parish pastoral council and parish community?

Once there is agreement on the actions your ministry group will undertake in the coming year, download and print “*Parish Ministry Group - Worksheet #2*” shown below. This will help your group record the details of the actions you have selected (e.g. the people who will lead the implementation of actions and how the pastoral effectiveness of the action will be assessed).



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PARISH MINISTRY GROUP

WORKSHEET 2

Parish actions selected	Opportunity or challenge to which the action will respond	Primary person, ministry team or group that will implement the action	When the action will be implemented	Resources or costs involved in implementation	Measures of pastoral effectiveness of the action
Action 2.2.2 ("Evangelisation and training of young people for liturgical ministries")	"Connecting better with the young"	J. Smith (music director) and P. Parker (singer)	2014 - June 2014	Organise training session with coffee for courtesy, costs extra copies of CDROM	Increased number of young people involved in liturgical ministries in our three weekend masses.

It is recommended that parish ministry group leaders and members discuss their ideas and insights for renewal with their parish priest and parish pastoral council. This will help generate additional ideas for your group, will foster collaboration across the parish, and will ensure that the parish and its various ministries have a common sense of purpose and direction as they seek to grow and share the faith of the entire community.