

Archeparchial “VIBRANT PARISH” Sobor 2014
Archeparchy of Winnipeg

STRATEGIES to implement the Priorities in our Parishes

The Study groups at each ‘Regional Sobor’ – that made up the whole 2014 Archeparchial Sobor on the “Vibrant Parish” were asked to discuss and put forward five (5) “strategies” that they felt would be most effective in realizing their particular Priority in the Parishes in our Archeparchy. Then toward the end of the Sobor day, everyone was invited to view all the strategies in each category and mark which one they thought would be most effective of the five.

These are the results from the 3 Regional Sobors given in percentage points...

[You will note that two different formats are used, this is because two individuals collated the information from the Sobors.

You may also wonder at sometimes if a particular strategy wouldn’t be better placed in a different category. This can be attributed to the fact that every participant and every group had many things that they wanted to express about life in the Church and about their hopes for their Church. At times their enthusiastic discussion brought forward ideas that went beyond the purview of their particular strategy.

Finally, one can’t help but notice that the strategies for the first Regional Sobor are more numerous. This is simply due to the fact that the number of participants at Dauphin was double that of the other Regional Sobors and therefore each Priority was divided into two groups.]

Winnipeg – Archeparchial “VIBRANT PARISH” Sobor 2014

WESTERN Region

May 24, 2014 – Holy Resurrection Parish - Dauphin

Holy Mysteries and Prayer

Group a

1 – Educate ALL parishioners about the Mysteries <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Catechism classes for Adult/Youth• Pamphlets/Bulletin/DVD’s (Mysteries)	59%
--	-----

2 – Translate OUR Catechism book into English.	14%
3 – Use Twitter/Youtube to daily remind of Mysteries.	10%
4 – Create parish website to share links.	10%
5 – Winnipeg Archeparchy website updated	8%

Group b

<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1 – Children’s Liturgy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once a month Enter with candle/read epistle Sing during communion, petitions 	17%
2 – Music <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instrument (Guitar?) More modern During mass? (communion) 	16%
3 – Ushers/Greeters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include as many people as possible 	17%
4 – Extend “Church Community” feeling throughout the week (Coffee after Services?)	
5 – Bible Study/Prayer Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For adults (in home?) Never too old to learn (catechism) 	50%

Word of God / Catechism

Group a

<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1 – Adult Catechism instruction prior to Church.	38%
2 – Bringing music to Church.	19%
3 – Christmas Caroling in homes, for shut-ins and sick and elderly.	15%
4 – Having Christmas and Eater Services on English Calendar to include family (Children).	11%
5 – Bring young leaders with new ideas to attract young people	38%
6 – Handing out Catechism books to parishioners.	15%

Group b

<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1 – Education: Bible Study/Catechism for Adults <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before liturgy – group sessions Young Leaders to lead studies for “younger” families 	31%

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconnecting with pride in our faith (crossing ourselves, praying) Our actions speak to others 	
2 – Current, modern homilies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics to deal with current issues as they relate to daily life in our communities. Explanation of traditional elements (Feast Days, Saints Days) 	44%
3 – Parishes (*especially small rural parishes) needs (monetary and spiritual) to be recognized. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper hierarchy needs to value their needs on an individual basis. 	19%
4 – Understanding or Education on the Church Hierarchy	6%

Unity

<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1 - Unity in our Church throughout the Eparchy and Country	10%
2 - Finding the God given gifts to enhance the church parish	25%
3 - Have a mini strategy session in our own Parish with our Youth	27%
4 – Use the technology (eg) Tweet	13%
5- The music in the Church can uplift and bring young people to the Church	25%

Serving Our Neighbors

Group a

<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1 – Help those in need in the community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give gift cards for food. Donate to local “soup kitchen”. 	18%
2 – Visit bereaved at later time after funeral.	14%
3 – Visit sick, shut-ins and disabled. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer to take shut-ins shopping. 	26%
4 – Help young families. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take children to/from school. 	2%
5 – Help immigrants get established in community.	7%
6 – Господи Помилуй Нас	1%
7 – Encourage/allow participation in Divine Liturgy etc... so others could learn our customs and traditions.	32%

Group b

<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1 – <u>Home Visits – by Committee</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visiting the hospital • Strategy works because of volunteers • Just so many volunteers (limited) • Cost is nominal • Could this be expanded (see blue chart) 	32%
2 – <u>Youth Serving</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinners (serving) • Fundraising • Teach elders how to use technology 	18%
3 – <u>Elders open to change</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less criticism • How do we do this without hurting feelings? 	50%

Missionary

Group a

<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1 – Try to encourage young couples and youth to attend Divine Liturgy and invite youth speakers.	48%
2 – Try to have central location for services.	6%
3 – <u>A definitive time for Liturgies.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferably in morning, even if it is early. 	16%
4 – Pray for our youth and others to attend more often.	29%

Group b

<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1 – <u>Retreats</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 to 5 Days 	4%
2 – <u>Literature Resources</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature displays, CD's, pamphlets, posters, icons, devotional material. 	11%
3 – <u>Homilies that are relevant to our modern times.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include catechism in some of the homilies. 	24%
4 – Listening to God and being more sensitive to the Holy Spirit.	28%
5 – Live and show your faith openly	17%

6 – <u>More lay participation in Liturgies</u> • Responses, children participation, etc.)	17%
---	-----

LEADERSHIP

Group a

<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1 – <u>Having a Parish Group</u> • Discussion – Brainstorming • Retreats • Leaders are our future – They have the “power” and final say.	5%
2 – <u>Homily</u> • Present day issues • Less rigid	22%
3 – <u>Make use of present day technology.</u> • Website/Twitter	14%
4 – <u>Make Liturgy more “appealing” while maintaining Virtues/Sacraments.</u> • Respect differences of <u>old vs new</u>	14%
5 – <u>Priest must work with parishioners.</u> • Leaders must be open/approachable. • Open to discussions eg.: eulogy in Church	46%

Group b

<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1 - Quality Catechesis must be available and strongly encouraged to all parishioners, others who want to receive the sacraments, in order for people to receive the fullness of the Church	40%
2 – Unite parishioners together, around the table of the Eucharist	
3 – Every child must have the opportunity to receive regular, on-going Catechesis	13%
4 – Parishioners need to lead by example and be good role models, in being passionate and excited, to receive the sacraments. Other parishioners, especially the young ones, may follow, if there is an evident abundance of love and excitement that surrounds them.	40%
5 – Development of private and public prayer in parish cultures.	7%

Winnipeg - Archeparchial “VIBRANT PARISH” Sobor 2014
SOUTH-EASTERN Region
September 20, 2014 – Holy Eucharist Parish – Winnipeg

Holy Mysteries

1.	Evangelization – (showing example- “walking the talk”)	24%
2.	Leadership Development (Clergy & Laity) (Commitment to promotion of Sacraments)	14%
3.	Education/Spiritual Development (Catechesis, marriage/baptismal prep. Etc...)	24%
4.	Effective use of Human Resources (Mentorship of Clergy to laity) (training for sacramental workshops)	3%
5.	Effective Communication (Consistency throughout: Clergy – Laity) (Pastoral letter from Bishop – 2 times/year)	34%

Word of “God”

1.	Personal Commitment to read the Bible daily.	32%
2.	For a church group: permission from Priest for a Bible study group.	7%
3.	Determine location/frequency of study.	
4.	A committee to co-ordinate study	
5.	Use good Catholic resources to assist in study and for “grounding” in the Catholic faith: CatholicScriptureStudy.com, Bible timeline – video/booklet, “You can understand the Bible” – book, Catholic Radio, EWTN, and Apologetics series. Note: A scripture study doesn’t need to “wait” for the bureaucracy – we need to take personal responsibility.	61%

Unity

1.	Utilize the 2002 summary of “a Journey of Faith & Renewal” developed by people of the Eparchy.	17%
2.	Open & Non-judgmental communication within our Parish community.	10%
3.	Creating an organization for implementing ideas, i.e.: visiting Parishes & taking the strategies & using them in the Parishes. This organization would consist of representation from all Parishes liaising information.	31%
4.	To prepare an instructional template booklet for presentation & utilization by the touring liaison group & the individual Eparachial Parishes.	
5.	To “not “beat around the bush – “Take Action”! Move forward on the action plan.	17%

6.	Utilize today's ways (Technologies) to share our faith, to bring our youth into our faith to grow, and be in Unity. There are others out there doing the same.	24%
----	--	-----

Service to Others

1.	Start small, but start!	36%
2.	Identifying resources-gifts in self/others, materials.	21%
3.	Networking with other Parishes.	43%
4.	Speakers.	
5.	Engage/clergy.	

Missionary Spirit

1.	Learn it/Know it/Share it. Need for adult catechesis/scripture study.	40%
2.	One would have the knowledge and the tools to "Evangelize".	
3.	Lack of resources (Eastern Rite), lack of dedication and commitment to want to learn, lack of leadership/music ministry.	7%
4.	Need manuals (teacher and student manuals) facilitator training, people that want to learn, directives from hierarchy and consistency-from clergy, more effective use of technology.	53%

Leadership

1.	Be a good role model. (Keep a strong faith. Trust in God)	69%
2.	Accept everyone, don't judge. (Welcome everyone, strength in faith, young & old)	21%
3.	Greeter (before liturgies)	
4.	Communication (with all our churches, phone tree-keep our church family in touch, bulletin).	10%
5.	Listen (in need).	

Winnipeg - Archeparchial "VIBRANT PARISH" Sobor 2014
NORTH-CENTRAL Region
October 25, 2014 – Blessed Virgin Mary Parish - Winnipeg

Holy Mysteries

1.	Awareness that there is not much of an understanding as mysteries as a way to experience God! (Many have experience – many do not and have to).	62%
2.	Incorporate an adult education which calls forth experience.	21%
3.	Develop/create opportunity for faith sharing.	12%
4.	Take opportunity to educate/share faith as need arises!	6%
5.	Within church, i.e. Teach the meaning of hymns – outside church, catechize.	

Word of God

1.	To make everyone want to come to church, experience and taste the liturgy and be together. Programs for youth- courses geared towards young adults, church to pay if necessary.	12%
2.	Welcome people and be friendly and loving when you see someone new as well as our own circle of parishioners. Smile!!	44%
3.	Live and act the word of God. Look at everyone and treat them as if they were God himself.	41%
4.	Education – All aspects in church, Iconostas etc...	
5.	Priests should be more social.	3%

Unity

1.	If we become more unified within each parish, naturally more people will come. We might have to change dramatically, but uniquely within each parish. I.e. 1hr, 15 min. MAX., English only if necessary, choir sit in pews to be more inclusive & more participation, young folks read the epistle, young do the collection.	14%
2.	We need cooperation – not dictators, just because we’ve always done it that way. Make changes, then REASSESS and adjust accordingly, suggestion to change title to Catholic Church of the UK/Byzantine rite. Would we attend a church building labelled Pilipino Catholic Church?	3%
3.	We need LEADERSHIP, both from Priests and Parishioners (Council). Offer leadership courses for both go outside church rather than reinvent the wheel for courses.	32%
4.	Interactive homily, change it up on occasion, make it directly applicable to one’s life when I go home, give “homework” in homily, puppets, videos, challenge the parishioners, i.e. Do you pray for Putin?	27%
5.	Ongoing dialogue between parishioners & clergy/bishops, to identify positive change within church.	24%

Service to others

1.	Welcoming Committee: Handpicked individuals with appropriate skills, meeting regularly, review & evaluate regularly, identifiable (by name tag etc...), for new immigrants.	27%
2.	Mentorship: ongoing communication (follow-up) for new & existing members.	21%
3.	Pastoral (All-inclusive) care: Visitation of the sick (in hospitals, home-bound), send cards (for baptism, birthdays, graduations, marriages, deaths, and retirements), baskets, hampers, Samaritans fund – people make small donations towards these, prove transportation to those that need.	39%
4.	Outreach to community outside of church: soup kitchen (Siloam mission, agape table), First Nations (& other cultures).	9%
5.	Interfaith activities: Let us be welcoming to all!	3%

Mission Spirit

1.	Evangelize people already in the pews: good homilies (pertinent), guest homilists, adult faith enrichment (Bible study etc...), Teach catechists from the pulpit (sacraments/liturgy etc...), and all parishioners have a role (stewardship), inclusiveness of children.	81%
2.	Amalgamation of Parishes, shared clergy, assigning clergy according to their gifts, accessibility for all to attend, consolidation of resources & organizations.	16%
3.	Welcoming newcomers.	3%

Leadership

1.	Strategies of retaining of capturing our youth. Introduce post-secondary programming for Ukr. Catholic youth (14 years +) graduating from gr. 8 catechism. Try to develop curriculum through Archeparchy ie. Bible studies, Ukr. Traditions/customs and Ukr. Catholic church history.	28%
2.	Community, fostering and renewal unity. Would be beneficial to reassess communication lines between Chancellery and all parishes. To enhance consistent messages to everyone! Example is lack of advertising for this Sobor.	6%
3.	Membership: more emphasis=is on advertising through Facebook, internet etc...	19%
4.	Improve relationships between parish priests and congregation. Invite priests to individual member's homes, for example. Emphasis on more positive sermons dealing with daily life.	47%

A very special thank you to **Carlene Deptuch** who spent time gathering and collating the information from our Archeparchial Sobor and for creating the graphs and charts . Many thanks to **Crystal Novicki** who initiated this work after the first regional session.

There is still much to do with the “Vision 2020” or “Vibrant Parish” initiative and many people from around the Archeparchy will yet contribute much right up through the year 2020. However, we want to thank each and every person that offered help in so many ways to this point! God bless every one of the many volunteers at each regional session!