

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK
MAKING ALL THINGS NEW

St. Augustine Church
Larchmont, NY

Short Form
Evaluation Results

January 8, 2014

**Attached is the report of the Core Committee of St. Augustine Parish
for the parish and for Cluster Group 44.**

The criteria are taken from the Manual for Making All Things New – Short Form (20 pages).

The All Things New Committee sought broad engagement in the Parish’s self-assessment.
Specifically:

- Formed an advisory and out-reach group of forty parishioners from whom they sought input and counsel.
- Held a Town Hall meeting on 11/17, where parishioners were asked to provide input.
- Sought input via on line and paper survey, derived from the Archdiocese’s survey. (Modifications were made to the survey, with the intent to simplify and clarify the questions and content). The on-line survey was completed by 107 parishioners from 10/21 – 11/15 and paper questionnaires were completed by 22 parishioners.

Key Learnings From Out-Reach, Town Hall and Survey

- Summary: parishioners describe St Augustine’s as a vibrant parish, with a rich liturgical life, and a fantastic religious education program. Parishioners are seeking to become a more outwardly focused parish—engaging those uncertain about their faith and increasing St. Augustine’s stewardship and outreach at all levels. Those who have had opportunity to fully consider the implications of Making All Things New are open to the positive change it can enable.
- The majority of survey respondents indicated satisfaction with parish life. The Liturgy was described as the heart of our Parish life and many observed that the beauty of our church enhances our faith and worship. Many noted that funerals are approached with great empathy and reverence. There was robust input on sermons, with a broad range of views expressed. While outside the scope of the Making All Things New assessment, Msgr. Kelly and Parish Council will assess how to best address, including the publication of celebrants for Sunday masses.
- Key Strengths: our large, vibrant and growing (+20% in four years) religious education program and adult faith formation. While the latter is relatively new, it is achieving notable success and many parishioners commented on its relevance.
- **Key Opportunities:**
 - Build on the strength of the Religious Education program and Sunday Family Mass and provide more programs relevant for young families. Great interest in additional activities that can link young families to stewardship and outreach, and suggestion that St. Augustine’s assess the possibility of a pre-school.
 - Young Adult Involvement: Expand program for high schoolers and develop new programs for young adults.
 - Outreach and Stewardship: Parish should strengthen its present programs and develop programs for separated, divorced and alienated Catholics and enable and encourage evangelization.

SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE PARISH

The **Sacramental Life of the Parish Criteria** can be viewed under four major topics: Eucharist as Source and Summit of Life, Sacramental Celebrations and Devotional Practices, Well Trained Ministers, and the Importance of Music.

Please prayerfully study, reflect, and evaluate your parish's sacramental life using the following material to indicate how well your parish celebrates Eucharist and the sacraments, how it forms disciples and how it lives out a collaborative and respectful style of leadership.

Use the following evaluative markers:

OK if the ministry is satisfactory in your parish;

+ if it is done very well;

– if it needs improvement. (- means minus)

NA does not apply

Criterion 1 Sacramental Life

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the life and mission of the parish.

+ Eucharist and all sacraments are celebrated with prayerfulness and according to Liturgical Law, and archdiocesan directives.

OK Homilies speak to the lives of the people.

+ All sacramental celebrations involve well prepared sacramental ministers.

+ The people have been prepared for the changes in The New Roman Missal

+ Parents are involved in quality theological and sound sacramental preparation programs that speak to the needs of today's families.

Criterion 2 Sacramental Celebrations

Sacramental celebrations and devotional practices reflect the cultural heritage of the people assembled.

+ The Sacrament of Penance and the Anointing of the Sick are celebrated regularly in the parish.

+ RCIA is the formation experience for adults seeking the Sacraments of Initiation.

+ Enriching sacramental preparation is available for all sacraments.

OK Various forms of devotional prayer are fostered which reflect the cultural heritage of the parishioners.

+ Funerals are celebrated with compassion and understanding.

Criterion 3 Sacramental Ministries

Parishioners are well trained for sacramental ministries.

- Ministers of hospitality are trained and regularly receive opportunities to grow in their understanding of the power and value of Liturgy.

Section II – Parish and Cluster Materials

OK Ministers of the Word (Lectors) are trained and regularly receive opportunities to grow in their understanding of the power and value of Liturgy.

OK Ministers of the Eucharist are trained and regularly receive opportunities to grow in their understanding of the power and value of Liturgy.

NA Sacristans are trained and regularly receive opportunities to grow in their understanding of the power and value of Liturgy.

NA The Liturgy Committee is trained and regularly receive opportunities to grow in their understanding of the power and value of Liturgy.

Criterion 4 Music as Part of Liturgy

Music is seen as an integral part of liturgy and all music ministers are well formed by trained musical ability and the liturgical norms of the Church.

+ Music is valued as a vital Liturgical ministry as indicated by the quality of music leaders.

NA Cantors are well trained and regularly receive opportunities to grow in their understanding of the power and value of Liturgy.

+ Music is selected that is seasonally appropriate and varied to correspond to the themes of the liturgical readings.

- The Assembly is prepared for liturgical music and encouraged to contribute in song to liturgical worship.

The best way we foster the Liturgical Life of the Parish is **through our good music and Sacramental Programs.**

Our parish would be great in the area of Liturgical Life if we **encouraged more music participation and had a Liturgy Committee.**

Summary:

After examining the three Parish Models in your *Making All Things New* Planning Guide, discuss which ones you could adopt that would enhance the criteria listed above.

Summarize your thoughts here.

Collaboration with other parishes.

EVANGELIZATION, CATECHESIS, CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, AND LIFELONG RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Evangelization, Formation, and Education section can be viewed under three major topics: Evangelization, Catechetical Formation, and Catholic Schools. Please study how your parish is involved in these apostolates and evaluate them using the code described below.

OK if the ministry is satisfactory in your parish;

+ if it is done very well;

– if it needs improvement; (- means minus)

NA does not apply.

Criterion 5 Evangelization

Evangelization is recognized as the essential aspect of the life and mission of the parish.

OK Parish leadership and membership are formed in a vision of evangelization based on Church teachings.

OK The parish understands evangelization according to Church documents and is actively engaged in being an evangelizing community.

OK The parish welcomes newcomers warmly and personally and reaches out to the alienated, inactive, and unchurched.

+ The parish encourages racial and ethnic harmony and appreciation of differences with the parish and beyond.

The best aspect about the way we evangelize is...

through our active 30 plus ministries. The vibrancy of our religious education program has brought families back to the Church.

Our parish would be great in the area of evangelization if...

we encouraged more outreach to the alienated.

Criterion 6 Catechesis

The parish provides excellent lifelong catechetical formation, including but not limited to family catechesis, youth, and young adult ministry and adult formation.

+ The parish provides excellent catechetical/formational experiences for all ages.

+ A comprehensive well integrated Catholic catechetical plan exists which provides opportunities for adults of all ages.

+ Children and youth of all ages are provided with high quality catechetical programs in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

+ Catechetical programs are rooted in the teachings of the Church and evaluated on a regular basis for conformity to the Catholic Catechism.

Section II – Parish and Cluster Materials

OK Families are provided opportunities as family units to grow in faith.

The best aspects of our formational programs are...

our leadership personnel and the quality of the programs offered.

Our parish could have great formational programs if we...

had more teen and young adult involvement.

Criterion 7 Catholic Schools

The parish actively encourages and supports Catholic schools in their operation and mission.

OK Our parish supports Catholic school(s) and encourages parents to send their children to them.

NA Our Catholic schools hold Catholic identity as the highest value, maintain high academic standards, and promote outreach and service learning.

NA Our parents are involved in the Catholic school and support it financially.

NA Families are encouraged to send their children to Catholic Schools.

The best aspects of the Catholic school(s) our children attend are...

NA

Our Catholic schools would be great if...

NA

Criterion 8 Vocation Awareness

Formation and education in vocation awareness is an integral part of all catechetical programs.

OK Education for vocation awareness is an integral part of our catechetical programs and archdiocesan Catholic school curriculum and helps young people discern their vocation.

- A special emphasis is placed on inviting men to consider a vocation to priesthood, and men and women a vocation to religious life.
- Adults are encouraged in their vocation response to marriage, single life and celibate life and are encouraged to be part of training programs for the lay apostolate and the diaconate.
- ? Participation in programs promoting the discernment of gifts to lay ministry are encouraged.

Section II – Parish and Cluster Materials

The most successful efforts to date in promoting vocations to priesthood, religious life, lay ministry, and the universal call to holiness include the following...

STAY Connected Youth Program, visit to the Parish by Bishop John Barres and our priests who are good role models.

Our parish would be outstanding in promoting all forms of vocations if **parents encouraged vocation awareness, seminarians visited the parish more frequently and more emphasis was placed on vocations.**

Summary

After examining the three Parish Models in your *Making All Things New* Planning Guide, discuss which ones you could adopt that would enhance evangelization, catechesis, catholic school ministry, and vocation awareness.

Summarize your thoughts here.

Collaboration with other parishes.

STEWARDSHIP AND OUTREACH

Life of service is based on one's Baptismal call to participate in God's life as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Stewardship, service, and advocacy are supported by the parish, but often take place in the daily lives of parishioners. Stewardship and outreach encompass outreach education, advocacy for legislative outreach, Respect Life, outreach programs to the marginalized and those who need assistance due to low incomes.

Please evaluate your programs using the following code:

OK if the ministry is satisfactory in your parish;

+ if it is done very well;

– if it needs improvement; (- means minus)

NA does not apply.

Criterion 9 Time, Talent and Treasure

Parishioners are educated and formed in stewardship where all disciples share their time, talent, and treasure.

+ All catechetical programs integrate outreach and stewardship.

NA The parish has an active stewardship committee.

OK Parishioners give generously of their time, talent, and treasure for the building up of the Church and reign of God in the world.

? The parish has programs where all are expected to share their talents and insights such as activities for families, separated, divorced, single parents, widowed, etc

Criterion 10 Advocacy and Outreach

Advocacy and outreach programs are well integrated into parish life.

+ Education on Catholic Social Teaching is available appropriately for all ages.

+ The parish has outreach programs to assist people who are poor and marginalized.

? Training for advocacy at the state and local level is provided in all areas of outreach, especially respect life issues, from conception to death.

Criterion 11 Comprehensive View of Stewardship

Being good stewards of all God's gifts and contributing to and participating in activities of the larger Church are embodied in parish life.

OK Opportunities to understand that stewardship as a way of life has the power to shape and mold our understanding of our lives and the way in which we live are provided on an on-going basis to all parishioners.

+ The parish models great respect for all of creation and tries to make use of sustainable resources whenever possible.

? Parishioners understand that they have gifts from God and use them to build up the Church to witness to the mission of Jesus Christ.

Section II – Parish and Cluster Materials

The most successful efforts to date in promoting stewardship as a way of life, advocacy and outreach programs and by the sharing of time, talent and treasure include the following...

our 30 plus parish ministries, including, Midnight Run, Habitat for Humanity, Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen.

Our parish would be outstanding in promoting all forms of stewardship, outreach and advocacy if we...

had a Stewardship Committee.

Summary

After examining the three Parish Models in your *Making All Things New* Planning Guide, discuss which ones you could adopt that would enhance stewardship and outreach.

Summarize your thoughts here.

Collaboration with other parishes.

EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION

Criterion 12 Effective Leadership

The pastor/administrator, staff, parish council and finance council exert effective leadership that embodies stewardship and points to the future. (What are the instructions? i.e. positive if it's done very well and negative if needs improvement.)

- + The staff and councils pray together.
- OK The Parish Council and staff receive on-going formation for their particular missions.
- + Pastoral leadership encourages the fullest possible collaboration of clergy, religious, and laity in their common mission.
- + The councils reflect the particular population of the parish.
- + The Parish Council evaluates and responds to the needs of the parish.

Criterion 13 Financial Stability

The parish is financially stable and exercises good stewardship of its resources.

- + The parish has a well operating finance council with a financial plan in place.
- + The parish is able to pay its debts within a reasonable time.
- + The parish has met its archdiocesan financial obligations.
- + The parish ensures proper fiscal administration, business management, and maintenance.
- + The focus of the Finance Council is on stewardship of resources in both managing costs and developing revenue.

Criterion 14 Diminishing Number of Priests

In its planning, the parish takes into account the diminishing number of priests.

- + The parish is supporting the pastor/administrator and not making unreasonable demands on him for his time and for sacramental ministry.
- + The parish is studying the parish models for the future and will work generously with its cluster to suggest a model, which takes into account the diminishing number of priests, even if this means it might consolidate with another parish.
- OK The parish is training and/or hiring lay people to help with some of the parish services and activities, including business management and administration.

The most successful efforts to date in enhancing council and staff development, financial stability and working with other parishes to conserve resources include the following...
the Parish encourages staff participation in inservice courses and training –the Parish recruits highly qualified members for the Finance Council who possess varied abilities –the St. Augustine Ladies Auxiliary joins with Sts. John & Paul Women's Guild to conduct an annual Awards Luncheon.

Our parish would be outstanding in its effectiveness in staff and council development, financial stability, and collaboration with other parishes if we...

conducted training programs for council members

Criterion 15 Geographic Proximity

The parish is taking into account its geographic proximity to other parishes and its Mass attendance when it plans for the future.

- The parish has shared pastoral programs with near-by parishes.
- The parish has worked to jointly schedule weekend Masses with neighboring parishes.
- + Parishioners and parish leaders are examining geographic distances as they plan for the future.

Criterion 16 Parish Staff

The parish has adequate and well-trained and compensated staff as well as appropriate and well maintained facilities to carry out its mission.

- + The parish has hired fully qualified professional staff to carry out its mission in all aspects of pastoral care.
- + Non-paid people are well-trained to be successful providers of services in the parish.
- OK Regular staff meetings including shared prayer are held and staff in-service and/or retreats are provided regularly.
- OK The parish has adequate space for offices, for liturgy, meeting areas for various size groups, catechesis, parish gatherings, and needed places for other ministries and forms of pastoral care.
- + The parish buildings have been evaluated by qualified engineers and deemed to be structurally sound now and in the foreseeable future and are handicapped accessible.

The most successful efforts to date in enhancing human resources, scheduling weekend Masses, staff development and studying geographic proximity of other parishes in planning for the future include the following...

the Parish has retained additional professional staff.

Section II – Parish and Cluster Materials

Our parish would be outstanding in its effectiveness related to the criteria 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 if we...

collaborated with other parishes.

Summary

After examining the three Parish Models in your *Making All Things New* Planning Guide, discuss which ones you could adopt that would enhance human resources, staff development and make the best use of the geographic proximity of other parishes.

Summarize your thoughts here.

Collaborated with other parishes.