

Vision 2020

Input from Epiphany Parishioners

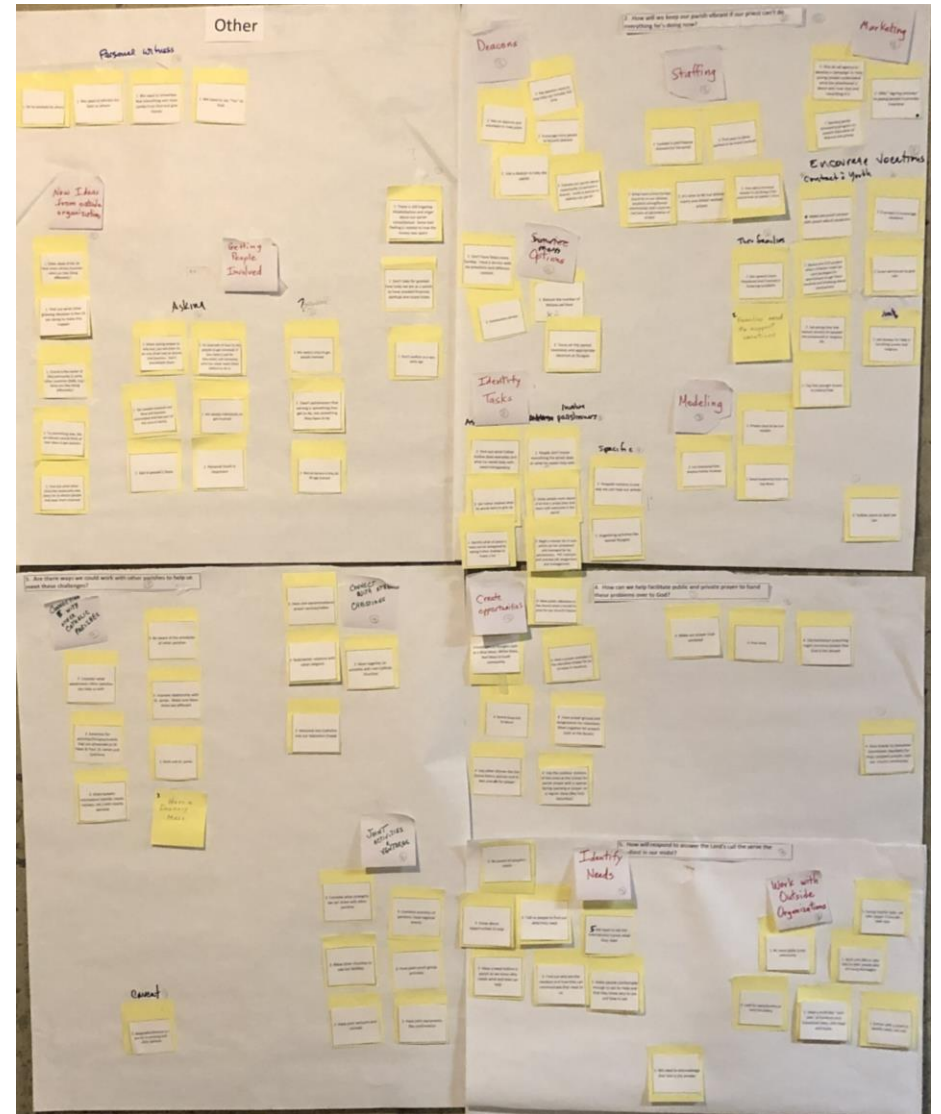
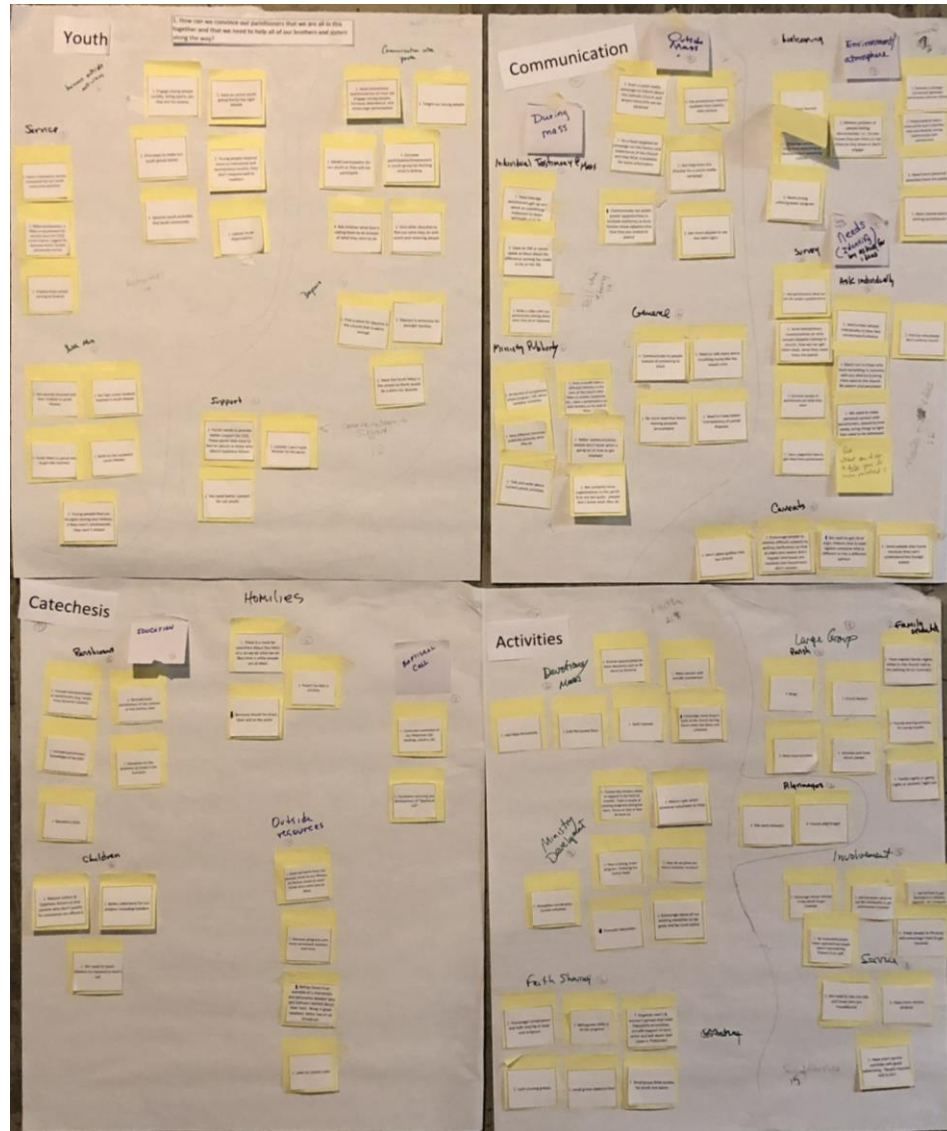
Methodology

- Meet with our larger ministries
 - 8 ministries contributed
 - ~60 parishioners attended
 - Meetings facilitated by several PPC members
- Ministries asked to review in advance Bishop Bambera's three challenges that are facing us
 - Changing demographics
 - Changing attitudes about formal church participation
 - Fewer priests

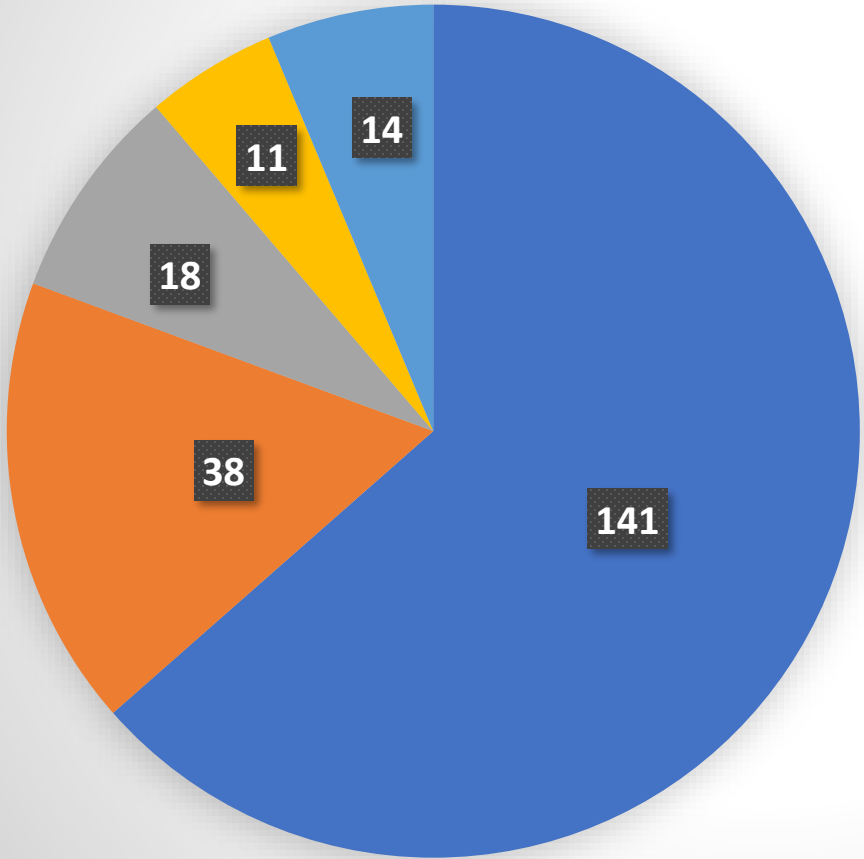
Methodology, continued

- Idea generation prompted at meetings by five questions, including three suggested by Bishop Bambera:
 1. How can we convince our parishioners that we are all on this earthly pilgrimage together and that we need to help all of our brothers and sisters along the way?
 2. How will we keep our parish vibrant if our priest can't do everything he's doing now?
 3. Are there ways we could work with other parishes to help us meet these challenges?
 4. How can we help facilitate public and private prayer to hand these problems over to God?
 5. How will we respond to answer the Lord's call to serve the neediest in our midst?
- Ideas processed by PPC

222 Ideas Offered by Epiphany Parishioners and Processed by PPC

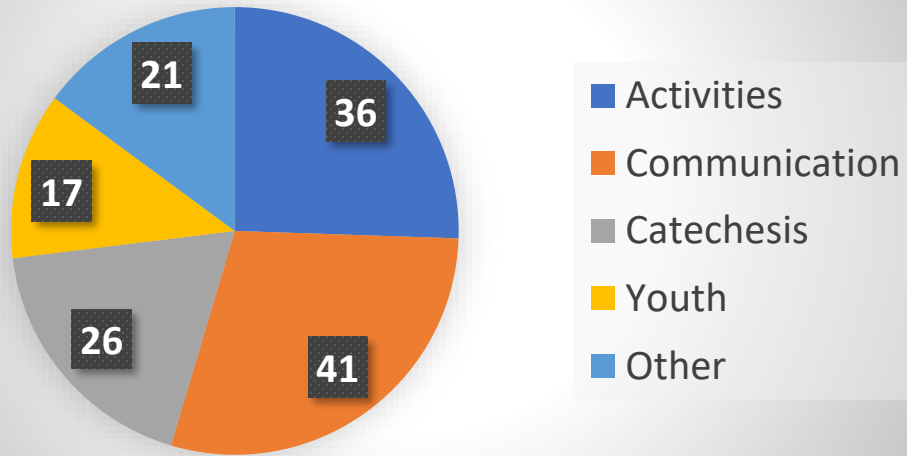


All Data – 222 Ideas

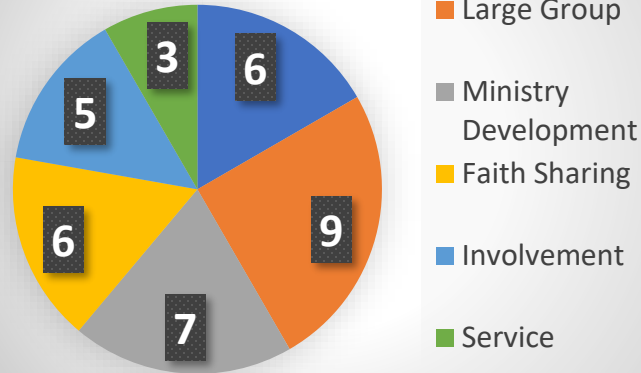


- 1. Help our brothers & sisters
- 2. Keep parishes vibrant with fewer priests
- 3. Work with other parishes
- 4. Facilitate prayer
- 5. Serve the neediest

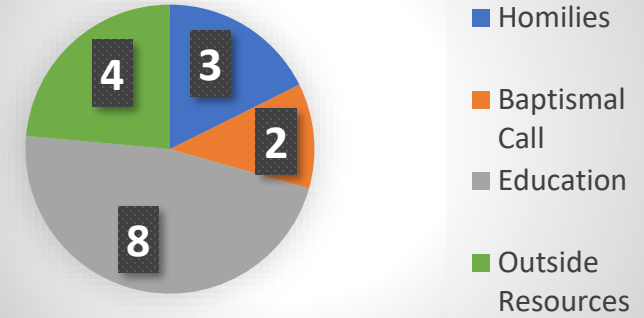
1. Help our brothers & sisters



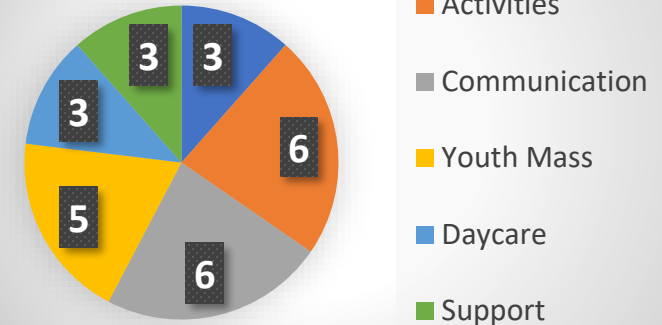
Activities



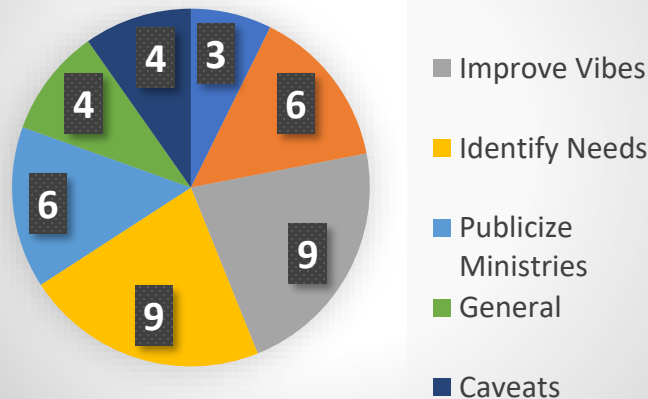
Catechesis



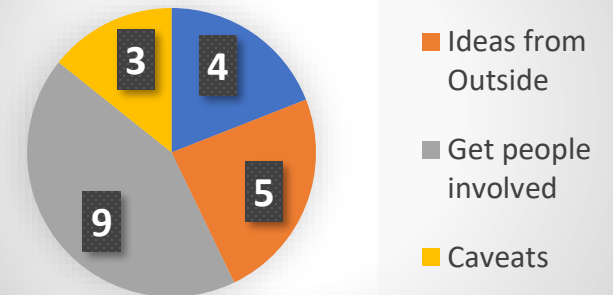
Youth



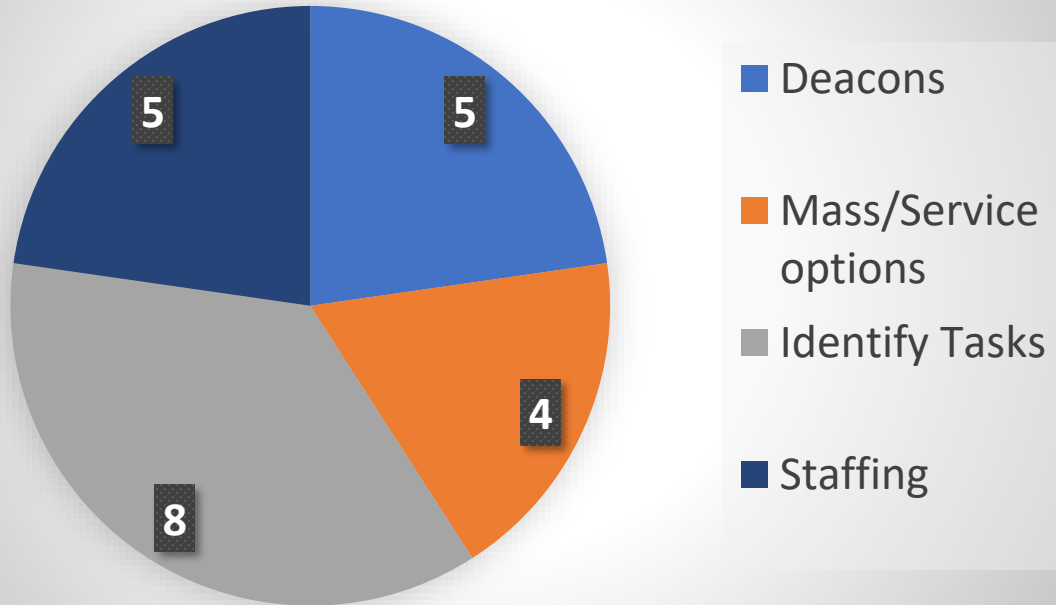
Communication



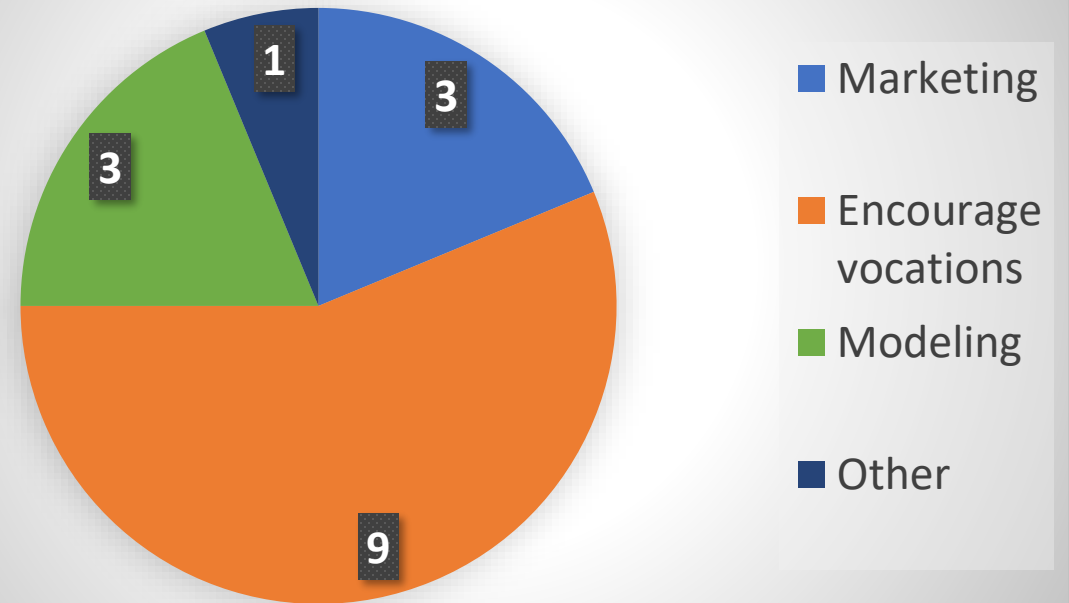
Other



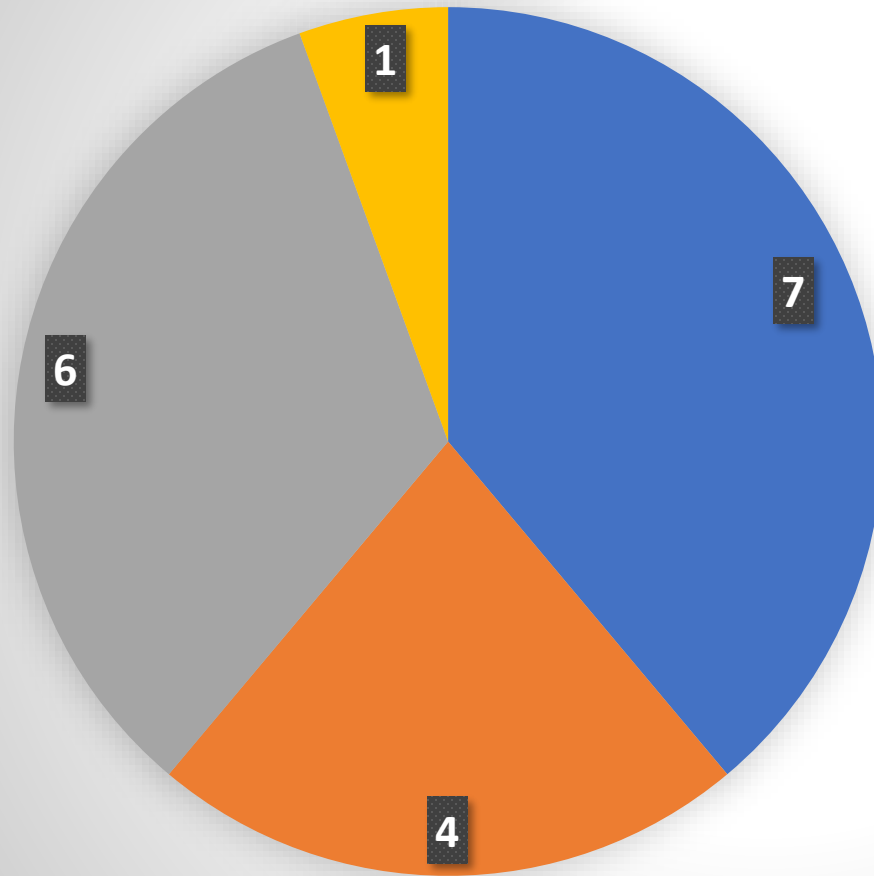
2. Help for the Pastor – Approaches



2. Help for the Pastor – Increase vocations

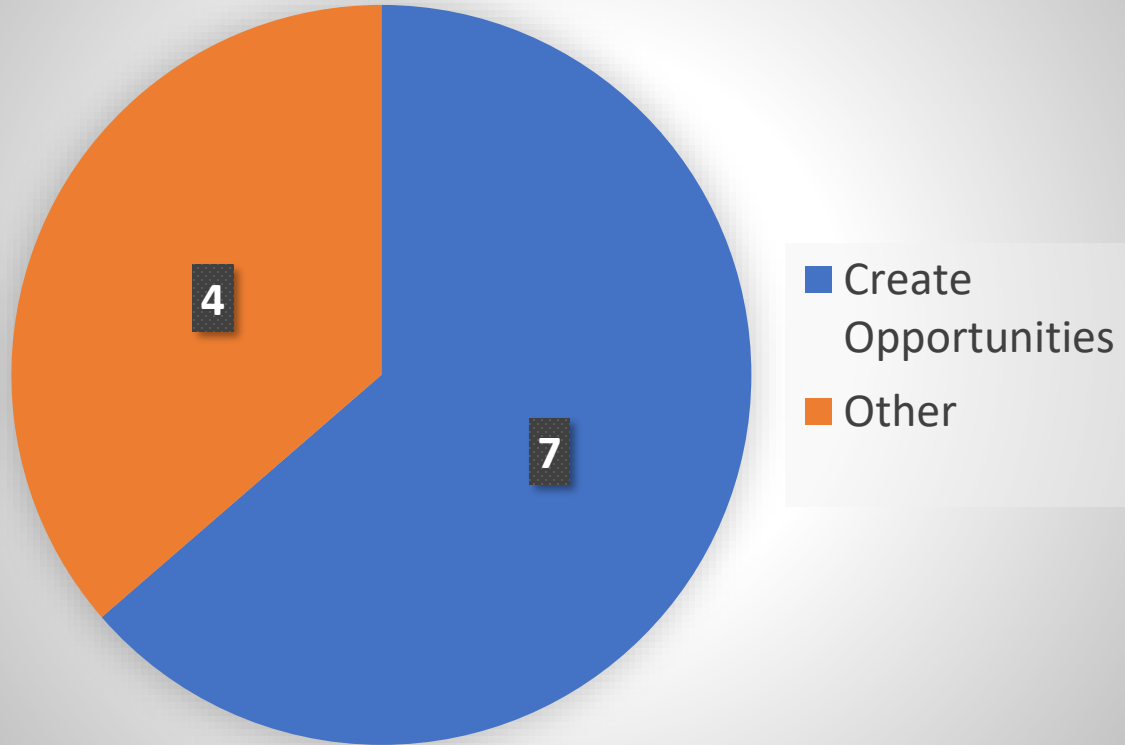


3. Work with other Parishes

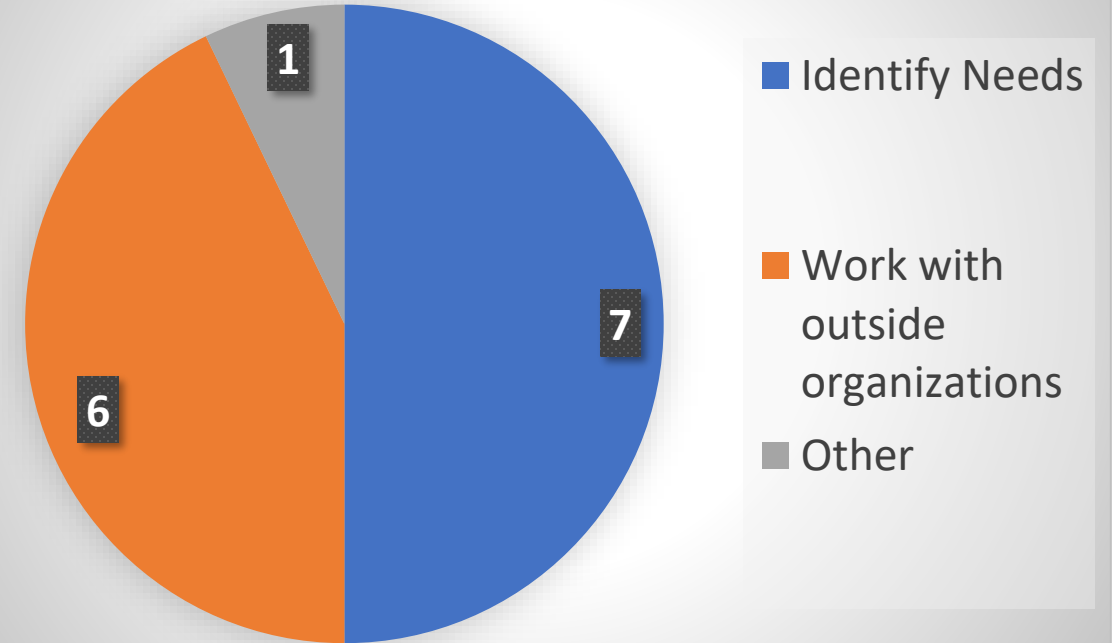


- Connect with other parishes
- Connect with other Christians
- Joint activities
- Caveat

4. Facilitate Prayer



5. Serve the Neediest



The following slides show the individual ideas. The organizing principal is to sort ideas into small groups according to a commonality that they possess. The previous pie charts show the top levels of this organization.

1. Help our brothers & sisters – Activities: Faith

Ministry Development

Choose key ministry areas to expand in the next 6 months. Focus on 1 or 2 existing programs to work on and grow

Return calls when someone volunteers to help

Have a strong music program – knowing the hymns helps

How do we grow our home visitation ministry

Strengthen and develop current ministries

Promote adoration

Encourage some of our existing ministries to set goals and be more active

Devotions/Mass

Provide opportunities for more devotions such as 40 Hours or novenas

More retreats with outside involvement

Latin Mass periodically

5:00 PM Sunday Mass

Saint festivals

Encourage more drop-in visits at the church during hours when the doors are unlocked

Faith Sharing

Encourage conversation and faith sharing at soup and scripture

Reinvigorate ARISE or similar programs

Organize men's and women's groups that meet frequently to socialize, support each other and talk about God (used in Philippines)

Faith sharing groups

Small group opportunities

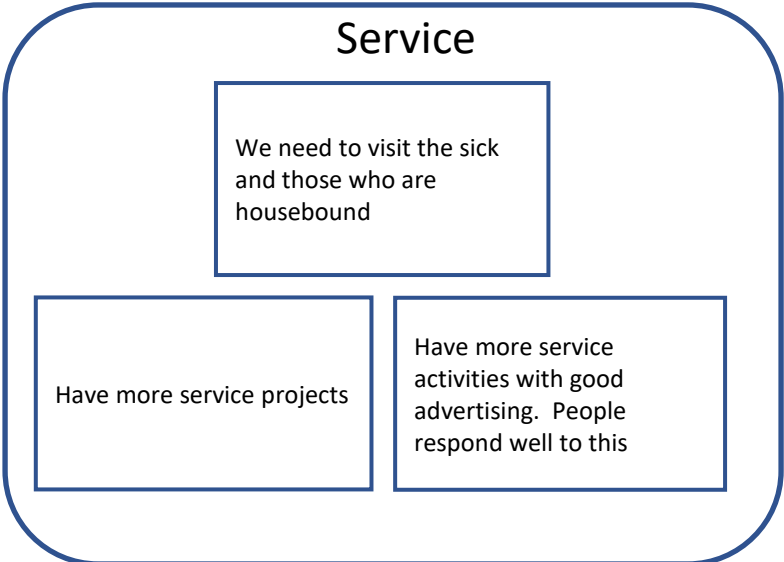
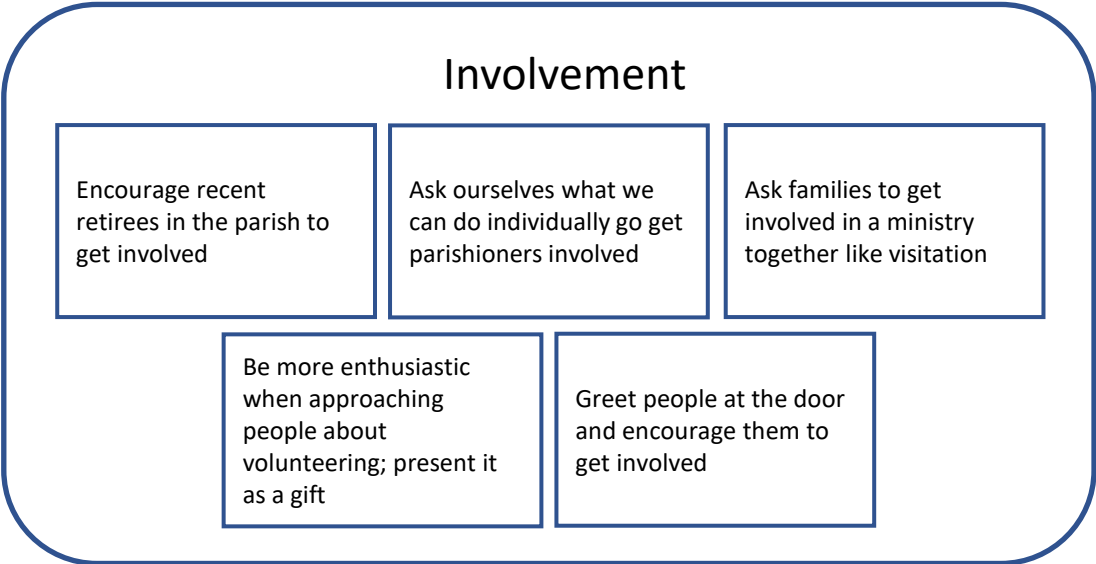
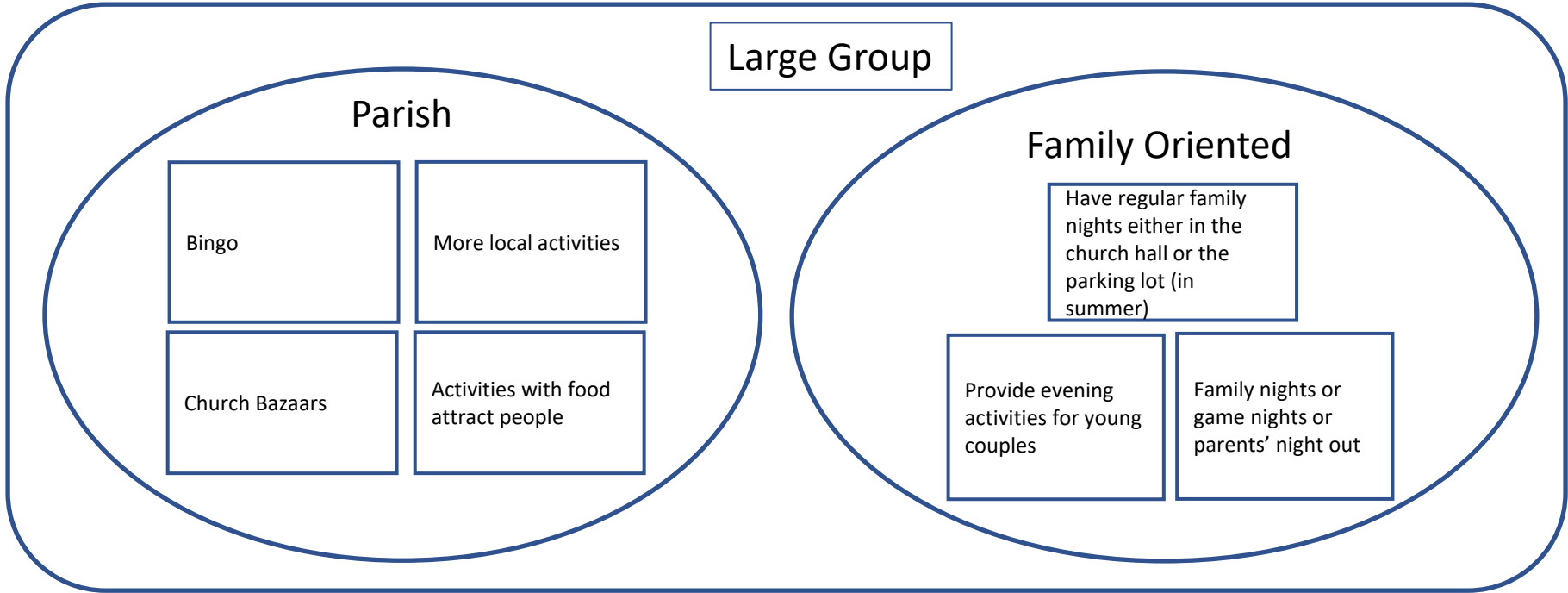
Small group Bible studies for youth and adults

Pilgrimages

We want retreats!

Future pilgrimages

1. Help our brothers & sisters – Activities: Social/Service



1. Help our brothers & sisters – Communication: Needs & Vibes

Identify Needs

Ask individually

Ask/contact people individual so the feel connection & invitation

Find out why people don't come to church

We need to make personal contact with parishioners, attend to their needs & bring things to light that need to be addressed

Ask: What can I do to help you be more involved

Reach out to those who have something in common with you and try to bring them back to the church. Be patient and persistent.

Survey

Ask parishioners what we can do using a questionnaire

Send anonymous questionnaires on why people stopped coming to church, how we can get them back, what they need from the parish

Use a suggestion box to get ideas from parishioners

Conduct a survey of parishioners on what they want

Caveats

Have someone from the diocese come to our Masses to discuss issues to catch those who come only to Mass

Bishop Sheen was a charismatic/ persuasive speaker who got Catholics excited about our faith. Bring in great speakers, live or via broadcast

Diocesan programs with more convenient locations and times

Listen to Catholic radio

Improve Vibes

Welcoming

Create a more welcoming environment

Encourage parishioners to be more welcoming and develop a welcoming culture

Enhance warmth

Need a strong usher/greeter program

Address problem of people feeling that no one knows they are there or not, so the leave and don't engage

General

Develop a stronger connection between parishioners and our school

Need more personal attention from the pastor

More conversation among parishioners

Priests need to take a more active role in families' lives and develop strong relationships with parishioners

1. Help our brothers & sisters – Communication: Tell the Story

Outside Mass

Start a social media campaign to inform about the Catholic Church and where more information can be obtained

Use promotional material available from Catholic radio stations

Do a local targeted ad campaign on the history and importance of the Church and that RCIA is available for more info

Get help from the Diocese for a social media campaign

Communicate our public prayer opportunities in multiple platforms so busy families know opportunities they are invited to attend

Get more people to use the lawn signs

Ministry Publicity

At the end of an Epiphany School program, talk about available ministries

Once a month have a different ministry present at the end of Mass and then stay in the back of the church to answer questions

Have different ministries publicly promote what they do

Better communication: people don't know what is going on or how to get involved

Talk and write about current parish activities

We currently have organizations in the parish that are too quiet – people don't know what they do

General

Communicate to people instead of preaching at them

Need to talk more about troubling issues like the sexual crisis

Be more assertive about making people accountable

Need to have better transparency of parish finances

Individual Testimony at Mass

Have average parishioners get up and speak on something important spiritually to them or in life

Have an EM or lector speak at Mass about the difference serving has made in his or her life

Make a video with our parishioners talking about what they do at Epiphany

1. Help our brothers & sisters - Catechesis

Education

Parishioners

Provide literature/books to parishioners (e.g., from Dynamic Catholic)

Remind/teach parishioners of the richness of the Catholic faith

Increase parishioners' knowledge of the faith

Education on the presence of Christ in the Eucharist

Mandatory RCIA

Children

Reduce tuition at Epiphany School so that parents who don't qualify for assistance can afford it

Better catechesis for our children, including toddlers

We need to teach children to respond to God's call

Homilies

There is a need for catechism about the Mass and why we do what we do. Best time is while people are at Mass

Sermons should be direct, clear and to the point

Preach the faith in homilies

Baptismal Call

Continued awareness of our Baptismal Call: readings, posters, etc.

Consistent nurturing and development of Baptismal Call

Outside resources

Have someone from the diocese come to our Masses to discuss issues to catch those who come only to Mass

Diocesan programs with more convenient locations and times

Bishop Sheen was a charismatic/ persuasive speaker who got Catholics excited about our faith. Bring in great speakers, live or via broadcast

Listen to Catholic radio

1. Help our brothers & sisters – Youth: Communications and support

Communication

Send anonymous questionnaires on how we engage young people, increase attendance and encourage participation	Target our young people	Model participation for our youth or they will not participate
Increase participation and involvement in youth group by learning what is lacking	As children what God is calling them to do instead of what they want to do	Visit other churches to find out what they do with youth and retaining people

Support

Parish needs to provide better support for CCD. These parish kids need to feel as special as those who attend Epiphany School.	Consider a paid Youth Minister for the parish
We need better support for our youth	

Daycare

Find a place for daycare in the church that is warm enough	Daycare is attractive for younger families
Have the Youth Mass in the school so there would be a place for daycare	

1. Help our brothers & sisters – Youth: Activities

Outside activities

Engage young people socially, doing sports, etc., that are fun events	Have an active youth group led by the right people	Find ways to make our youth group better
Young people respond more to interactive and spontaneous events; they don't respond well to tradition	Sponsor youth activities that build community	Catholic Youth Organizations

Service

Have a mandatory service component for our youth instruction activities	Make participation in Mass a service hours requirement for CCD & confirmation; suggest for Nat'l Honor Society community service
Children from school serving at funerals	

Youth Mass

Get parents involved with their children in youth Masses	Get high school students involved in youth Masses	Youth Mass is a great way to get kids involved
Build on the successful youth Masses	Young people find our liturgies boring and tedious; if they aren't entertained, they won't attend	

1. Help our brothers & sisters - Other

Get People Involved

Asking

When asking people to help out, just ask them to do one small task or attend one function. Don't overwhelm them

An example of how to ask: if you need a sub for Adoration, ask someone who has never been there before

Get people involved and they will become committed and feel part of the church family

Ask people individually to get involved

Get in people's faces

Personal touch is important

General

We need a crisis to get people involved

Teach parishioners that serving is something they *get* to do, not something they *have* to do

Recruit lectors in the 20-40 age bracket

Caveats

There is still lingering dissatisfaction & anger about our parish consolidation; some bad feeling is related to how the money was spent

Don't take for granted how lucky we are as a parish to have avoided financial, spiritual and moral crisis

Don't confirm at a very early age

Ideas from Outside

Other areas of the US have more vibrant churches – what are they doing differently

Find out what other growing diocese in the US are doing to make this happen

Church is the center of life/community in some other countries (e.g., India). What are they doing differently

Try something new, like an industry would think of new ideas to get workers

Find out what other churches, especially new ones, do to attract people and keep them involved

Personal Witness

Set an example for others

We need to witness our faith to others

We need to remember that everything we have comes from God and give thanks.

We need to say "Yes" to God

2. Keep parishes vibrant with fewer priests - Approaches

Identify tasks

Identify and Organize

Find out what Father Andrew does every day and what he needs help with – need transparency

Identify what of pastor's tasks can be delegated by asking Father Andrew to make a list

People don't know everything the priest does or what he needs help with

Ask Father Andrew what he would want to give up

Make people more aware of all that a priest does and share with everyone in the parish

Begin a master list of jobs that can be completed and managed by lay people. PPC maintain and oversee job assignment and mgmt.

Specific

Hospital ministry is one way we can help our priests

Organizing activities like special liturgies

Increase use of Deacons

Pay deacons more so that they can minister full-time

Rely on deacons and volunteers to help priest

Encourage more people to become deacons

Use a deacon to help the parish

Educate our parish about opportunity to become a deacon. Invite a deacon to address our parish

Mass/service options

Don't have a Mass every Sunday – have a service with lay preachers and different content

Communion service

Reduce the number of Masses we have

Focus on the sacred, reverence and appropriate decorum at liturgies

Staffing

Consider a paid Pastoral Associate for the parish

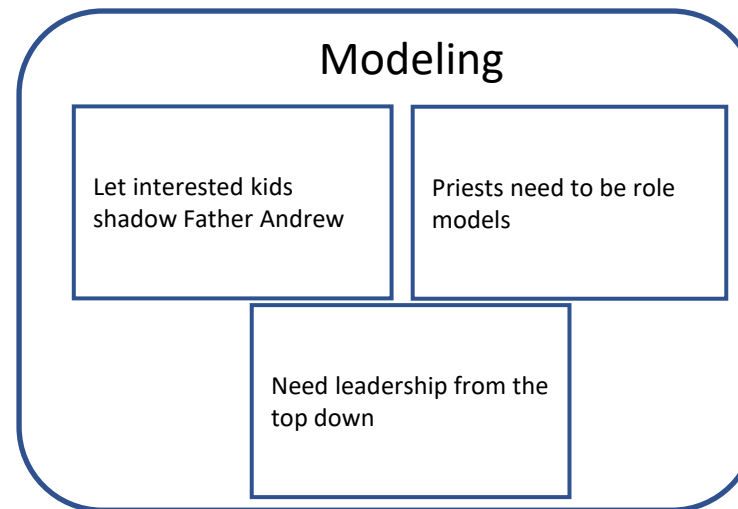
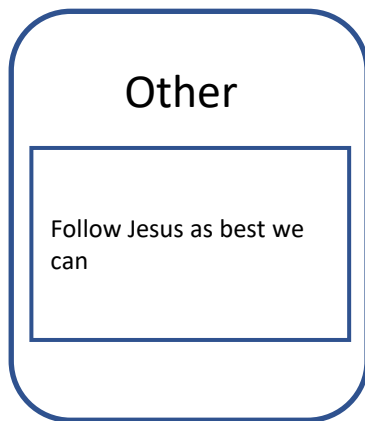
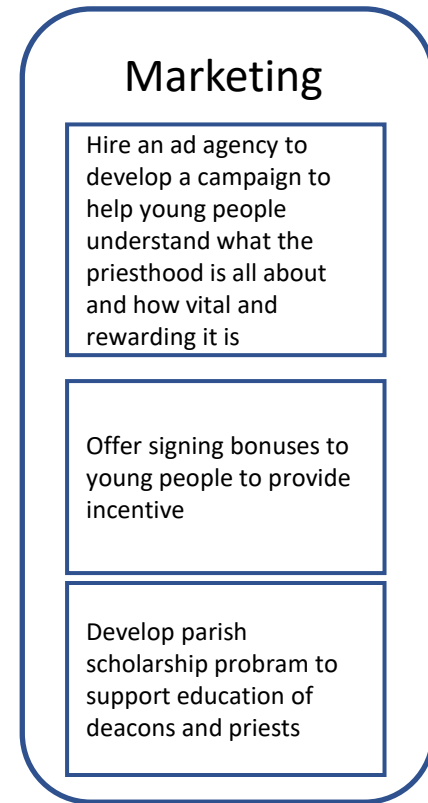
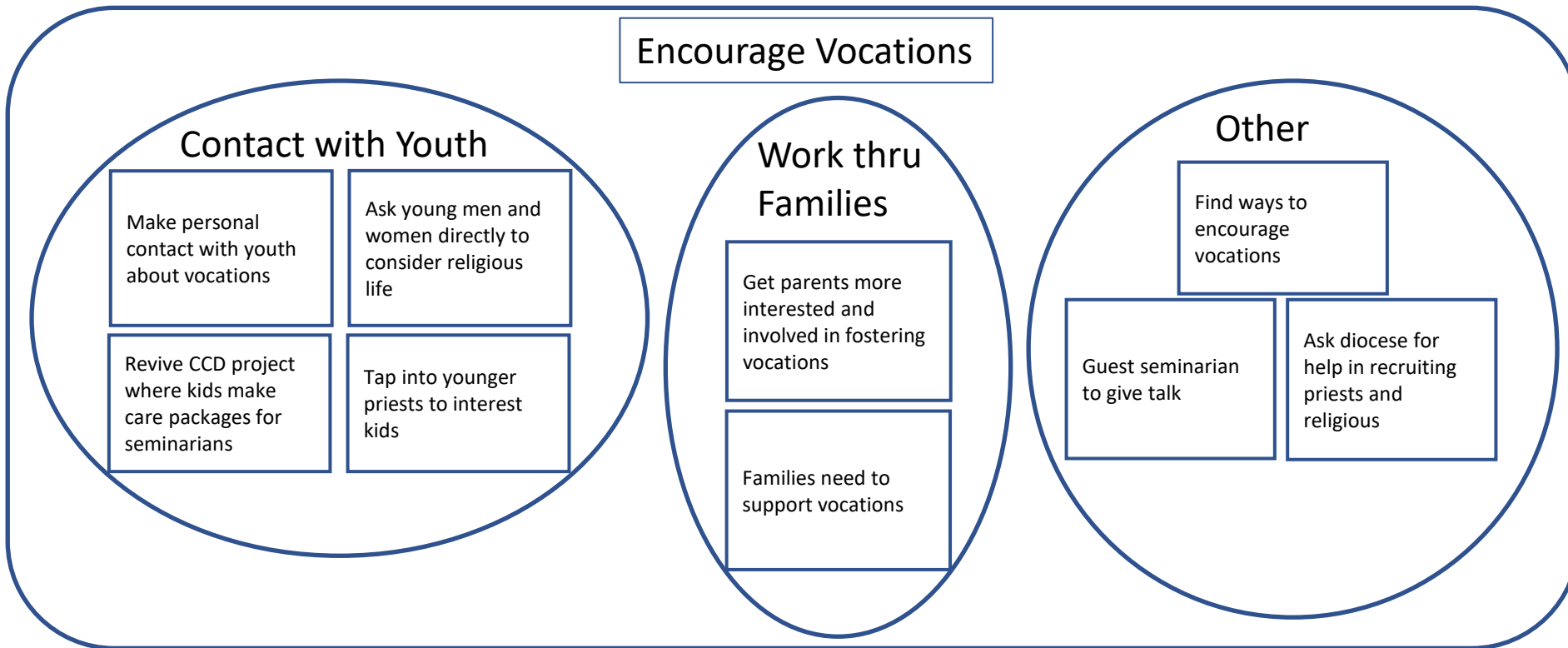
Find ways to allow women to be more involved

Hire administrative people to do things that would free up pastor's time

Bring more foreign priests to our diocese; establish relationships with countries that have an abundance of priests

It's time to let our priests marry and ordain women priests

2. Keep parishes vibrant with fewer priests – Increase vocations



3. Work with other Parishes

Connect with other Parishes

Consider what weaknesses other parishes can help us with.

Advertise for activities/liturgies/events that are scheduled at SS Peter & Paul, St. James & Epiphany

Share bulletin information (events, meals, retreats, etc.) with nearby parishes

Work with St. James

Be aware of the schedules of other parishes

Improve relationship with St. James; make sure Mass times are different

Have a deanery Mass

Joint activities

Consider what strengths we can share with other parishes

Allow other churches to use our facilities

Have joint ventures and retreats

Combine activities of parishes; have regional events

Have joint sacraments like confirmation

Have joint youth group activities

Connect with other Christians

Have non-denominational prayer services/rallies

Build better relations with other religions

Work together on activities with non-Catholic churches

Welcome non-Catholics into our Adoration Chapel

Caveat

Geography/distance is a barrier to working with other parishes

4. Facilitate Prayer

Create opportunities

Have public Adoration in the church once a month to pray for our church's future	Hold special liturgies such as a Blue Mass, White Mass, Red Mass to build community	Revive Soup & Scripture	Use other shrines like the Divine Mercy picture and the St. Anne statue for prayer
Have a prayer available in the Adoration Chapel for an increase in vocations	Have prayer groups and assignments for intentions. Meet together for prayers such as the Rosary	Use the outdoor Stations of the Cross at the school for parish prayer with a special Spring opening or prayer on a regular basis.	

Other

Make our prayer God-centered	Pray more
Old-fashioned preaching might convince people that God is the answer	Give thanks to Adoration Committee members for their constant prayers over our church community

5. Serve the neediest

