**Update on the Resolutions from the V Encuentro: July 2019**

**A1: Facilitate a survey based on what is working well and things that are not working well in the parish**

 Change the pastoral council: **this has been done with three representatives from each of the three Masses**

 Needs assessment: **we invite any parishioner with an idea or concern to see either Sr. Linda, Sr. Claire or myself. I have tried to make myself available for listening. It takes time and prioritization to enact some of these suggestions. Also, we will post a “suggestion box” on the back table with the hope that this is used seriously.**

 Find out ways to involve young people in the Church (participation in the Mass, social gatherings): **this is also a recommendation of the Convocation of Leaders. Besides our total ownership of this by way of invitation to others, we are open to suggestions. Laura Mena and Mariannie Zayas are in planning stages to announce a youth group for those post-high school to their 30s.**

**A2: Make better use of technology**

 Update and enhance the parish website: **this is ongoing. The website was changed Oct 2017 and has some pages in process but not viewable until completed. It is always difficult to keep this site fresh and up to date even if we had a website master which we do not. Also, let’s check to see about the overhead projector that sits on the ceiling of the hall.**

 Communicate prudently and increase participation through Flock notes: **Participation in Flocknotes is voluntary. We encourage all parishioners to join. See instructions below!**

 Bi-lingual website: **Depending on the content, some things may be in one language and others in both. We need to monitor this and improve here.**

**A3: Continue making hospitality our hallmark**

 Establish and train a hospitality committee: **Simply put, we need people to show their love for the parish and agree to be ushers on a rotating basis. Ideally, we need five per Mass.**

 Develop brochure of activities and ministries to hand out to new members of the Parish: **we discussed the content of this at this week’s meeting and look to start the design. We will hand these out before the final blessing when we traditionally welcome new members.**

 Ushers to wear their suit coats like before: **I will discuss this issue with our current ushers. It may be nice and fitting the Cathedral.**

**A4: Increase the number of social activities in the parish**

 A parish picnic: **let’s change this to a yearly parish celebration that is multicultural. Mark your calendars: Sat., October 12.**

 Host multi-cultural nights: **we moved this to the above bullet and opt to look for more social activities that are listed in our calendar (e.g., Coach Bingo, Trivia Night). These should serve as events to celebrate one another, to build the community. A new initiative is the Rosary for Peace which is a monthly recitation in north Camden.**

 Use different cultural festivities as teaching moments (Altagracia, Providence, Guadalupe, Filipino Celebrations, etc.). **We need better catechesis when we celebrate these great feasts. Let’s look for a handout that explains the feast and its devotion. Are there other groups not represented or underrepresented?**

**A5: Unite the small groups**

**This had no bullet listed. I have asked Sr. Linda to be the coordinator of all small groups within the parish. She can report to the parish council about their leadership., membership, recruitment success, parish and social activities, and fundraising. Specifically, each group is asked to take ownership of a different parish outreach such as the baby bottle campaign, the diaper collection, rice bowl, the Amazing Raffle fundraiser.**

**A6: Increase prayer and outreach opportunities**

* An updated website that includes prayer list. **We try to maintain an updated website (e.g., information on “knowing your rights” with recent ICE threats & pictorial galleries of recently completed events), as we as a monthly & yearly calendar & the weekly bulletin. We have two outstanding projects: online giving & an automated parish prayer list. We also use the Book of Intentions for various prayer requests.**

**A7: Reach out & attend to families who have lost loved ones, the divorced and those attracted to the same sex**

* Reach out to family suffering the loss of a loved one: **The tradition of the Rosary novena is a great source of consolation and affords wonderful parish participation. The family members of the deceased plan the liturgy and talk about their loved one with the celebrant, so that the celebration is personal and meaningful.**
* Reach out to families that have been affected by divorce/separation/irregular marriage: **Many have been successful in convalidating their civil marriages, so they are recognized by the Church. While we have no formal group for those divorced or separated, individual counseling and/or support may be provided by the pastoral staff. If there is a need for a group, please make this known.**
* Reach out to those people who are attracted to the same sex (LGBT community): **We are all images of God and welcomed. If there is a need for a formal group setting or for a special monthly prayer gathering, please make this known to a member of the pastoral team.**

**A8: Have more opportunity for adult formation**

* Keep offerings during Advent and Lent: **As a deanery, the pastors are considering a “deanery effort” during these seasons with offerings publicized at each parish. If this does not come to fruition, we will continue to have seasonal offerings.**
* Bring outside speakers for parish mission, etc.: **Last year we inaugurated a Cathedral Speaker Series. This year we will host a series in Spanish during the months on October, December, February and April.**
* Offer Bible and theology classes: **Often, Deacon Rene offers sessions such as these and brings in missionaries during the summer. The Best Advent/Lent Ever programs hosted by Dynamic Catholic are a wonderful online service to make holy those seasons. Our recent participation in The Word Among Us booklet helps our Mass preparation and spiritual journey as well.**

**A9: Youth Ministry**

* Find ways to involve the youth in Mass and at social gatherings: **The parish has repeatedly said how they enjoy seeing the young lector, usher, and serve in the choir. We welcome more to these ministries, as well as serving as Eucharistic Ministers. A young adult group is in the process of being formed for those 18-35. In addition, we would like to offer more social gatherings for all members of the parish community including but not limited to the following: Coach Bag Bingo, Parish Trivia Night benefitting Religious Education and Holy Name School, and a bowling outing. We will host on October 12 our Parish’s version of the diocesan Convocation: The Joy of the Gospel followed by a multicultural celebration.**

**A10: Health Services**

* Continue the established relationship with the nursing program of Rutgers-Camden: **this did not take place last year. We will contact Rutgers this summer to see if this “parish health fair” may continue.**
* Involve the Vitality ministry with our parish: **Anne Marie Pirillo, from Vitality Catholic Health Services, invited Elva Vazquez and Daniel Diaz to a training session for Our Journey of Hope program that provides cancer care outreach ministry. Many of you signed up to participate in this vital ministry. We will contact you shortly for an organizational meeting which will discuss some training.**

**Top Priorities for the Parish in the Next 2 to 3 Years**

1. Effective parish communication via website, weekly bulletin, Flock notes, Nass announcements
2. Outreach to the youth
3. Set hospitality goals
4. Establish programs of education and formation for adults (spirituality, theology, and English literacy classes)
5. Needs assessment of what works well, what needs improving and what needs to be added