



# MULTIPARISH COOPERATIVE SERVICE GROUP

*They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest*  
*Psalm 107*

## **Southeast Deanery December Staff Meeting**

### **Discussion Topic: What are the Multi-cultural challenges to Parish Life?**

December 19, 2002

#### ***Group 1***

1. Communicating in multiple languages
  - a. Cost
  - b. Staffing-for translation
  - c. Time
  - d. Consequence if someone left out
2. Cultural Diversity of the Staff
  - a. How to handle with limited funds
3. Programs/Services not always family friendly i.e., providing childcare or family based
4. Parish & Organizational Structure and Vision primarily reflects U.S. Catholic dominant culture values while the majority of the population served has different experience and vision of Church.
  - a. Need to develop new and flexible models that make room for a variety of perspectives and approaches
  - b. Integration not assimilation
5. Theology of Evangelization and Culture
6. Need to be able to give lay leadership the means to be able to get done what needs to be done from the bottom up
7. "Representative" cultural groups are not always representative. How to increase participation and involvement

#### ***Group 2***

1. Lack of facilities is a challenge and not respecting time and people's need for arrival and departure into parking lot
2. Cultural Times:
  - a. Vietnamese arrive early at Mass while Spanish speaking and Filipino and Anglos arrive late, creating problems in parking lot
  - b. Ordained minister is listened to more than a lay minister in these cultures
  - c. Office Hours are a problem. Need to change hours to accommodate more people when they are off of work
  - d. Need to hire staff who reflect the ethnic makeup of the parish
3. Don't understand the concept of Stewardship. They think that the diocese provides the money needed for catechesis or stewardship.



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## **Group 3**

1. Under the current parish model:
  - Under capitalized-no money
  - Under staffed-no bilingual staff members
2. Religious Experience of Church is best supported through the Eucharist in small communities developed to establish unique identity and their understanding of the experience
3. Unequal distribution of facilities in the Diocese
  - North has money and facilities
  - Southeast and East side don't
4. A need for Trained Leaders in Communities
  - To animate the community

## **Group 4**

1. Facilities needed to satisfy all ethnic needs
2. Minority becoming the majority and former majority feels overwhelmed or left out
3. How to combine mixed culture youth groups
4. Basic Vietnamese language class is needed and understanding of their cultural values
5. Newly arrived immigrants with a different viewpoint and multiple language levels
6. Starting special language Mass without assurance of continuity

## **Group 5**

1. There is a challenge to bring 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Hispanics into the Church. They now speak English and act Catholic because of Grandparents but do not participate as Catholic parishioners
2. There is a need for American born and educated Mexican priests to minister to this group
3. Stewardship is an issue. There is high Mass attendance of unattached, non-affiliated peoples.

## **Group 6**

1. Challenge in assimilating Vietnamese into regular parish life
2. Education regarding Catholic way of life, i.e., Sacramental life
3. Leadership Formation to involve all cultural groups