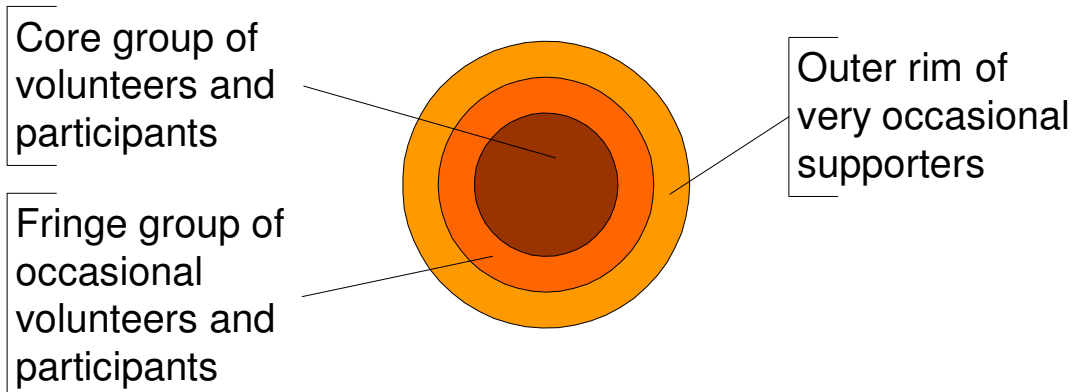


## WE WALK BY FAITH Pillar I. WORD

The following information is **PART ONE** of a brief summary from the first reflection and response session at St. Augustine Parish held on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 12noon. Parishioners came together to review, reflect and respond to the **WORD** pillar of the diocesan document, **We Walk By Faith**. We hope many more will come forward and participate in our next pillar, **WORSHIP**, scheduled for Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 from 9am to 12noon. Please feel free to add your comments to this form and return it to one of the baskets located in the Information Center. Thank you!

### Questions for Parish Reflection and Renewal:

1. How does our parish impart knowledge of the Catholic faith and challenge and support adults to develop a mature Catholic faith?
  - ◆ Diverse program of activities for people of all ages
  - ◆ We are an interactive parish
  - ◆ Imparting knowledge starts with the Mass
  - ◆ We could have a short presentation at the end of mass to announce programs and offer personalize invitations
  - ◆ Reflection on the question of the week (in the bulletin) during homily
  - ◆ Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_
2. How does our parish provide age-appropriate and diverse faith formation opportunities to children, youth, and adults?
  - ◆ Children's liturgy, STAR, Men's Book Study, Scripture study groups, musicals, etc.
  - ◆ Key to ongoing involvement in the Word is the youth... The Word is the training ground of the youth for the next generation
  - ◆ Children need to be excited & want to continue in formation as they get older
  - ◆ Trying to get people involved & keep them energized
  - ◆ Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_
3. How does our parish challenge its members to be active disciples in family, work and civic society?
  - ◆ Litany of activities
  - ◆ Short term Stewardship
    - CARITAS
    - Furniture ministryOpportunities are there – volunteerism



- ◆ Opportunity to be an active disciple is usually only taken advantage of by a small group
  - ◆ Put a face on the ministry by short talks after mass or as a function of the announcements
  - ◆ We need to have a variety of ways to bring people in
  - ◆ The Word should be/is challenging us to be active members
  - ◆ Question of the week from the bulletin – share it at liturgy
  - ◆ Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_
4. How does the parish use technology to communicate and to promote and expand its ministry of the Word?
- ◆ Web-site – but some folks do not have computers
  - ◆ Phone trees should be brought back
  - ◆ Handicapped accessible to a point
  - ◆ Use of microphones
  - ◆ New sound system is being planned / hearing impaired
  - ◆ The challenge is to inform the parish of plans
  - ◆ Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Does our parish make adult faith formation the centerpiece of all its' catechetical ministry?
- ◆ Need to make sure that everyone knows what is available
  - ◆ What does "centerpiece" mean?
  - ◆ All need opportunities
  - ◆ Need for fellowship, to be surrounded by other Catholics
  - ◆ Make sure everyone has the opportunity to be present
  - ◆ Availability of going on outings; knowing about them; and how to get there
  - ◆ L.I.F.E. Program – teachers getting trained, children learning, peer grouping to learn as a whole
  - ◆ RCIA process – candidates teach sponsors: RCIA process focus not only on the formation of the candidates and catechumens but also on their sponsor
  - ◆ Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Is our parish aware of its multicultural composition and the needs and cultural practices of the various groups within the parish and provides adult catechesis and formation opportunities in the native language of its members?
- ◆ We are aware – but is everyone?
  - ◆ There are cultural misunderstandings
  - ◆ Adult formation does occur in both languages
  - ◆ Ask that Book Store be open at other masses
  - ◆ Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**(This is part one (of two)...to be continued next week...thank you for your input!)**

## WE WALK BY FAITH      Pillar I. WORD

The following information is **PART TWO** of a brief summary from the first reflection and response session at St. Augustine Parish held on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 12noon. Parishioners came together to review, reflect and respond to the **WORD** pillar of the diocesan document, **We Walk By Faith**. We hope many more will come forward and participate in our next pillar, WORSHIP, scheduled for Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 from 9am to 12noon. Please feel free to add your comments to this form and return it to one of the baskets located in the Information Center. Thank you!

### Questions for Parish Reflection and Renewal:

7. Does the parish provide references or library resources or make known where such resources are available, to help community members in their progress toward a deeper understanding of the Word and teaching of the church?
  - ◆ Accommodations are available to access resources
  - ◆ Office staff is GREAT at giving out resources
  - ◆ People may not know about resources
  - ◆ Map of church buildings showing where things are
  - ◆ Knowledge of what is available is a challenge
  - ◆ Library / Computer room
  - ◆ Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Describe the catechetical vision and practices that the pastor and catechetical leaders exhibit in guiding the parish's ministry of the Word?
  - ◆ Bishop is looking for answers from the people
  - ◆ Communicating pillar information on the back of the Worship Aid
  - ◆ People need to hear the vision
  - ◆ L.I.F.E. will be a great opportunity because everyone will have a place to go
  - ◆ Staff has a lot to do will little lay assistance
  - ◆ How do we get more people's input?
    - Put posters around the church with the pillar questions for people to write response upon
  - ◆ People have different ways of learning and communicating... Communicating to the entire parish family requires numerous ways of delivering the message as well as variations of the content to make the point
  - ◆ "One size does not fit all"
  - ◆ Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_
9. How does the parish respond to the need for a trained catechetical leader to direct its ministry of the Word and for trained catechists?
  - ◆ Trained leaders
  - ◆ Small amount of people participating
  - ◆ Need to look at the time that this series is offered
  - ◆ *We Walk By Faith* is a difficult document to read and may be discouraging participation
  - ◆ Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

10. How does the parish truly “proclaim itself to be the place of authentic ecumenical witness” and inter-religious witness?

- ◆ How we interpret other churches & religions
- ◆ Food Pantry is based on need
- ◆ Suggest a broader panel discussion to learn about other cultures / faiths
- ◆ People who are not Catholic may be worshipping with us
- ◆ Do all Catholics understand the religion?
- ◆ We need to understand what we all have in common
- ◆ Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

11. How does the parish integrate and build upon the dynamic interrelationship of Word and Worship?

- ◆ First reading and the Psalm are often related
- ◆ The use of symbols during the liturgy; ashes on Ash Wednesday; water on Baptism Sundays
- ◆ Suggest more symbols in church to reinforce the Word
- ◆ Question of the Week opportunities for Word to continue through the week
- ◆ Presider offering simple descriptions during the Mass when there is a broad spectrum of religious faiths present is very helpful
  - To hear the explanation of how we are incensed to go forth was very spiritually powerful
  - Lives Touched!!!
  - Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

12. How might the staff of the diocesan offices assist your parish to develop programs and processes important for full implementation of the WORD dimension for **We Walk By Faith** (WWBF)?

- ◆ Translate document into lay peoples’ terms
- ◆ Vocabulary is very dry and elitist
- ◆ User-friendly/inclusive language
- ◆ Rather than focusing on the Bishop’s visit, our focus is on building our community by supporting the pillars
- ◆ Diocesan office is able and willing to accept invitations to come and present
- ◆ Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Miscellaneous comments or questions:

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Thank you for your input!

*St. Augustine Staff*