

St. Monica Catholic Church
March 2007 Townhall Meetings - Verbatim

March 11, 2007

Vision Statement

- Embodied - What does that mean? Will everyone understand the word?
- Embodied is a confusing word
- Maybe say Jesus Christ “like” instead of embodied
- If this is a vision maybe we should replace “is” with “will be”
- Don’t like that God the Father is not mentioned (one person only)

Mission Statement

- Really like it
- Outreach is not mentioned
- “Participation” seems to cover all areas of the church including outreach

Strategic Focus Areas

Spirituality: bring back adult programs like “Word and Warmth”
we used to have interfaith gatherings

Community: wording seems to be more social
should the wording infer more spirituality?

Overall: like the goals
well written – concise, understandable, not too wordy
what will happen next? who decides about new directions, opportunities
and who will facilitate any changes

St. Monica Catholic Church
March 2007 Townhall Meetings - Verbatim

March 18,2007

Vision Statement

- Embodied? Will everyone understand the word?
- Consider 3-4 word “bumper sticker” to explain embodied. But, likes the Vision Statement
- Consider replacing embodied with incarnate.
- Bothersome if you have to explain a word.
- Add “Striving to be” or “strives to be”.
- Sounds presumptuous.
- OK if just for St. Monica, what will outsiders think?
 - St. Monica – who do they think they are!
- Consider St. Monica embodies Jesus Christ.
- Or, St. Monica is Jesus Christ lived.
- Embodies does not speak to the average person.
- We are his hands
- Honk if you love Jesus

Mission Statement

- More adult focus in growth and participation.
- Every group needs to be supported – need to have checks and balances.

Strategic Focus Areas

- Need to say faith formation for all ages.
- Adult Education Programs – miss this. Went to St. Stephens for their program.
- “Formal Prayer” does not capture Vibrant Participation phrase in Mission.
- Consider Participatory Prayer instead of formal prayer.
- Need to be more aware of marketing.
- Worship/Development – we do not study the bible.
- Consider tapping local resources (St. Mary’s College, UC Berkeley) for adult education.

St. Monica Catholic Church
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March 21, 2007

Vision Statement

- Does the Vision potentially apply to other Catholic and/or Christian Churches?
- Like it, challenging but simple & powerful.
- Really bold.....sounds a little arrogant and self-satisfied.
- Consider adding the words “challenged to be”.
- Theologically narrow, church is actually the Bride of Christ”.

Mission Statement

- Need to make sure we address the needs of our own Parishioners.
- Consider replacing or eliminating “vibrant”, how about “active”.
- Likes “Christ-centered community....

Strategic Focus Areas

- Consider focus on traditional family to insure they are included.
- Community – Replace word people with “individuals and Families”, leave out the word “and”. Also, add “among all ages” at the end of the statement.
- Strategic Focus Areas are all inward, does not seem to address Mission of growth.
- Spirituality – Would like to see something deeper, these look like activities. Should be looking at how we develop a deeper relationship with God. Looking for a “heart-felt relationship with God. (Check “Ten Essentials of Parish Life” publication.)
- Worship – Add “and celebration”.
- Development – Consider replacing word resources with ”capabilities”.
- Ministry – Consider replacing word growing with “developing”.
- Ministry – Consider replacing word engage with “for”.
- Ministry – Consider replacing word all with “our”.
- Overall, focus seems to be inward, How will the Vision be achieved?

St. Monica Catholic Church
March 2007 Townhall Meetings - Verbatim

March 24, 2007

Vision

- Short and sweet and to the point
- Jesus Christ is embodied in Saint Monica's. (reverse phrases)
- Reads like we're already there. (it should be changed to will be)
- Embodied is very clear.

Mission

- Love the word "Vibrant"
- Like the word "Participation"
- Like it. Thinks it's great.

Goals:

Ministry- Growing opportunities should be more or multiple opportunities.
Likes "engage all parishioners".

Add a Fall Ministry Fair to the Spring one. (Last Fair had a poor response)

More activities in the late afternoon/early evening.

ADULT EDUCATION/ BIBLE STUDY- This needs attention!

Ministry- "in leading and serving" (grammar correction)

Develop list of charities/outreach and put on website with phone numbers.

Newcomer meeting after mass with reps from each ministry.

Shoes that Fit Program- love it and love the invitation to participate.

COMMUNICATION- in the bulletin write it "welcomingly"

Adopt a Family- People were interested and left message but no call back.

Make a list of people interested in doing short-term projects.

No outreach category- need to expand into new areas.

COMMUNICATION NEEDED- top priority

Parish needs to do more outreach

Increased money needs- Need to increase donations.

Names of contact people in bulletin.

Recognize new members at church: Name badges/ introduce at mass.

"We want you to become part of this community".

St. Monica Catholic Church
March 2007 Townhall Meetings - Verbatim

March 25, 2007

Vision

- Requires theological training to understand the statement
- Should the vision speak to how the Parish is managed?
- The Vision, Mission, and Strategic Focus needs to communicate more openness and empathy in the Parish
- Suggested wording: “St. Monica strives to embody Jesus Christ”.
- The words need to sound more like a community instead of a building: suggested words are Parish, we, Faith Community, St. Monica Parish Community
- Recommend that Diocese Vision/Mission Statements, along with SWOT analysis be posted on website

Mission

- Good statement
- Does the Mission encourage or attract diversity. Use the word “diverse” or “diversity” in the statement
- Both the Vision and Mission statement sound to third-partyish. Suggested phrase is “Our community fosters.....”
- Seems a little vague. Did we consider SWOT when choosing our words?
- Should the word “sacred” be included somewhere?
- Questions, comments, and concerns about attendance at Town Hall meetings. Everyone felt that the variety of dates and times and the number of meetings was fine. Could the various groups that meet agree to extend their normal meetings by 30 minutes to allow for a review of Vision, Mission, and Strategic Focus?

Strategic Focus Areas

- Worship – add the words “praise and thanksgiving” to the end
- Spirituality – Add the word “education” between faith formation and fellowship.
- Well-written and action oriented
- Development – Consider replacing word resources with “capabilities”.
- Ministry – Spell check “parishioner”
- Worship – as a tactical goal, schedule discussion groups for Sunday’s homily (-ies).
- Is there enough of an external, outreach, and evangelization component
- Need more distinction and reference to in-reach and outreach activities
- Where is proper Worship Environment included? Reference was to children being allowed to run around during Eucharist.
- In general, do we feel these focus areas are consistent with other churches?

People want to see a compilation of all the meetings.