

WELCOMING THE STRANGER AMONG US: UNITY IN DIVERSITY (Overview)

January 29, 2003

Milwaukee Training for Great Lakes Region September 18-20, 2002
- USSCB /MRS (Migrants and Refugee Services)

Diocese of Joliet participants:

Kathleen McGowan – Catholic Charities
Rhona Lenhof - Office of Religious Education
Deacon Roger Schmith - Office of Peace and Social Justice
Fr. Mike Slattery, OSA - Presbyteral Council
Sr. Laurina Kahne, CSJ - St. Alexis Parish, Bensenville, Office Hispanic Ministry
Sr. Judy Callahan, BVM - Office Hispanic Ministry

The goal of the committee is to develop a process in which the Pastoral: “Welcoming the Stranger Among us: Unity in Diversity” can be studied and implemented in our Diocesan structures and Parishes. Implementation goals are to become more welcoming to persons of diverse cultures, especially the newcomers (immigrants and refugees), thus building on the richness of diversity to create an environment where the differences in culture are celebrated as gift.

The processes for study, discussion etc. will be carried out both at the diocesan level and at the parish level. Diocesan materials are helpful for each agency to do a one-time self-study” in 2003 of its interest in and effectiveness in serving the multi-cultural population of the diocese. At end of 2003, the Committee will receive Agency summaries and formulate a written Diocesan Plan for Multi-Cultural inclusion for the future.

On the parish level the materials are designed for a three year study, based on the themes of the pastoral, and user-friendly for sessions within a group faith-sharing format, e.g. during Lent each year. Findings remain within the parish.

Diocesan level: (2003)

Awareness of multi-cultural Reality/census information, etc.
Look at hiring of staff – multi-cultural perspective
What services does our (my) agency provide to other cultures
What services are lacking? Future planned response

Appendix A: Diocesan Agency self-analysis tool

Appendix B: Parish - Year I segment of three -year focus on Pastoral

In the pastoral, the following themes are explored within the Parishes:

I: Call to Welcome: Year I 2003

An immigrant Church – then and now. Who are the New Immigrants? The migration for survival, undocumented immigrants, immigrant families and their communities. The call of the Church to welcome includes a tradition of welcome and pastoral concerns.

*DIOCESAN IN-SERVICE: Call to WELCOME- Many Faces in God's House
Mid October 2003*

II. A Call to Conversion: Year II 2004

Forgetful of our heritage, Competition for resources, cultural fears, institutional obstacles (Conversion)

Diocesan in-service: Diocesan, parish leadership– Inspirational speaker: on theme of conversion in relation to multi-culturalism Lent 2004

III. A Call to Communion: Solidarity/ a New Evangelization Year III: 2005

Coming to understand others as the first form of hospitality; intercultural communication; languages for ministry; ministry in a multi-cultural church
-Diocesan Plan; Parish Plan; Special needs of Youth

*Diocesan in-service: for Diocesan and parish leadership)– inspirational speaker
On theme of Communion/ solidarity & evangelization Lent 2005*

Committee:

The one-year diocesan self-study and the three year parish discussion guides were developed by the following persons:

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Rhona Lenhof - Office of Religious Education
Joyce Ruhaak - Office of Peace and Social Justice
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