

ORGANIZING A PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAM



From Scratch....

GETTING STARTED: SOME INITIAL STEPS

1. Find and recruit a co-conspirator (Co-leader)
 - *Clarify your vision of the team*
2. Approach the pastor with the idea and vision. Propose that a team be built.
 - *Meet with him and present proposal*
 - *Clarify roles*
 - *Adjust the vision to include his input*
3. Develop the core ministry team
 - *Meet w/co-leader and pastor to generate 15 names - - IMPORTANT NOTE: Not the usual, overly committed suspects*
 - *Try to reflect the make-up of the parish. Diversity is important.*
 - *Set 1st team meeting date*
 - *Divide the list with the task of making a personal contact and invite her/him to join the team and attend first meeting*
 - ***Agree not to hold the 1st meeting until we have at least 8 people who agree to join***
 - *Get pastor to write and send a letter of introduction to individuals on the list.*
 - *Make the contacts.*
4. Meet (w/co-leader) to organize the 1st meeting's agenda
5. Hold 1st meeting
 - *Share and discuss the vision*
 - *Adjust the vision from insights raised during the discussion*
 - *Agree on a "ministry interest" approach... organize several sub-teams based on expressed action interests. Agree this should be a realistic and manageable number.*
 - *Assign homework to explore potential interest areas.*
 - *Agree team formation is important and committed to that*
 - *Set next meeting date.*
6. Hold next meeting...
 - *Start with formation session & faith sharing*
 - *Brainstorm interest areas" based on homework*
 - *Agree on 5 – e.g. Homeless Housing Ministry, Education and Worship, Faithful Citizenship, Solidarity focused on "CRS Operation Rice Bowl" promotion, Food Sustainability, etc.*
 - *Volunteers by identified interest agree to lead (or co-lead) each interest area team.*
 - *Agree on three next steps for leaders: (1.) Recruit a small group of interest team members; (2.) Create a simple, 25 words or less "Interest Team Purpose". **Decide that each team will not begin its work until 5 people are on the "Interest Area Team". Therefore, more recruitment becomes a critical task.** Same criteria (above). And, (3.) hold one "Interest Team" meeting.*
 - *Set next CORE TEAM meeting date in 6 weeks... to check-in and coordinate.*
7. Hold next meeting...
 - Interest team progress reports:
 - recruitment continues (within each team)
 - activity planning (within each team)

- Updates to Pastor and Pastoral Council

8. Hold next meeting...Plan coordinated activity

- Core team staying in touch via e-mail

