**Template for Outreach**

**“But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but indeed and in truth” ~1 John 3:17**

Our call as Christians is to extend the gifts and blessings to the larger community, especially the marginalized. We serve and reflect Christ by serving the people society calls the least of these. We journey with those we serve and help carry their burden as Christ does for us. By the gifts of God, our Diocese is dedicated to entering into the pain and poverty of the world. We cannot sit idly by or in the comfort of our own churches. We have a template to assist our parishes without a full time rector. Our churches serve Christ by serving His children in need through outreach.

1. Each parish without a full time rector (hereafter “church”) should directly engage with the community by establishing at least one ministry that reflects the needs of the community.
   1. Addressing pain and poverty does not always mean addressing hunger. Even the most affluent communities may have pain hidden behind the front door. Your ministry may come in the form of serving those:

* feeling isolated due to mental health issues
* feeling scared due to domestic violence
* feeling alone caring for a person with special needs,
* youth feeling bullied,
* experiencing health and educational disparities, etc.
  1. The ministry should be sustainable. This is done in part by making sure the ministry is what the community needs versus what the church wants. Create a community survey, survey your parishioners, host open houses and create space for discussion (post pandemic), utilize the Datastory tool to dig deeper into demographics as well as areas of need and resources, research what types nonprofits are in your area as they may indicate a need, have discussions with your local police department or schools for arising issues. Sustainability can be measured through annual evaluations (how many guests engaged, guest feedback, resource inventory, changes in community)
  2. There is no church too small or too “old” to provide outreach. Your parish may need to partner with another neighboring church for joint outreach but this does not diminish the importance or impact of your contribution
  3. The ministry should be continuous versus seasonal or onetime event. Building trust with those you serve is crucial. This is done by consistency/reliability and engagement type (described in section III)

1. Ministry with non-diocesan organizations must be collaborative
   1. Churches are encouraged to work collaboratively with organizations that serve those in need beyond solely providing financial support. Ask what is your direct relationship with those served
   2. The church should not solely depend on an external organization for its outreach. The church must develop a relationship with those served.
2. Each church should display cultural awareness and social diversity within their outreach
   1. Even if your church is diverse, hidden biases and stereotypes can surface without realization. The diocese as well as the community offer several trainings and workshops related to building cultural awareness and social diversity. Each church (clergy and laity overseeing outreach) must attend at least once per year; if you have an outreach team, each member should attend. (I.e., Experiencing Homelessness: Collaborative and Understanding Approaches symposium, Anti-Racism Training, mental health first aid, poverty simulation, bridges out of poverty, etc.). We can better serve if we have a better understanding of those we serve.
   2. The ministry should clearly demonstrate that there is emphasis on maintaining the dignity and self-worth of those you serve in mind. Serve as you would a family member! Each ministry day is an opportunity to journey with your guests’ versus simply encountering them.
3. Use the diocese for resources and support
   1. Mission related diocesan groups to connect with
      1. Anti-Racism Commission
      2. Anti-Human Trafficking
      3. Veterans Committee
      4. Global Mission Commission
      5. People with Disabilities Committee
      6. Anti-Gun Violence Committee
      7. Recovery Advocate Network
   2. Contact your Dean to learn about parish collaboration opportunities for outreach
   3. Contact Toneh Smyth, Canon for Mission to learn how the diocesan center can be of support or for ideas.
   4. The staff of the Diocese of Pennsylvania is available to assist with development and implementation.

**Church Outreach Checklist**

1. Our church ministry addresses (more than one box can be checked):

* Poverty
* Support System
* Education
* Physical health
* Mental health
* Veterans
* Human Trafficking
* Incarceration
* Gun violence
* People with disabilities
* Addiction
* Homelessness
* Senior citizen advocacy
* LGBTQ+ injustice
* Racism

1. Whose direct input led to the idea
   * Community
   * Parish members
   * Clergy
   * Community leaders/ entities
2. How are we building a relationship with those we serve beyond providing the service or financial donation? Would those you serve agree?

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1. What training/workshops do we need to attend or have attended in the past year to ensure we embody cultural awareness and social diversity through our ministry? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Is our ministry a collaboration with a community organization? If so how will the church continue to serve the community if the partnership no longer existed (meaning the organization is no longer working with the church)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_