

The "year two" report covers April 2009-April 2010, and will be published in a series of articles, following the six primary Road Map recommendations, though not necessarily in order. This report is for recommendation #2. (The "year one" report was published in the June 26, 2009, Hawaii Catholic Herald.)

ROAD MAP REPORT: YEAR TWO

The report to Bishop Larry Silva and the Diocese of Honolulu in the implementation of "Witness to Jesus: Diocesan Road Map for Pastoral, Program, and Facility Needs 2008-2013"

Road Map Recommendation #2: Youth and Young Adult Programs

Desired outcome: Joint efforts by a new diocesan office, Catholic schools, and the parishes prepare leaders and offer programs and activities that increase the participation of youth and young adults in parish life and ministries.

By Lisa Gomes

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Planned actions and their implementation

ACTION: Development of a diocese-wide strategy, based on an inventory of existing programs and coordination with existing bodies, that involves youth and young adults in parish life.

IMPLEMENTATION: Diocese- and vicariate-planned events, including Diocesan Youth Rally, Vicariate Youth Days, Young Adult Congress, On Fire, and similar gatherings, have been held throughout the year. These events and others that are planned (Diocesan Youth Days and vicariate young adult faith-sharing opportunities) empower youth and young adults to live as disciples of Christ, thus becoming active, participating members in the life, mission, and work of the Church.

ACTION: Hold a summit of youth and young adult ministry directors throughout the diocese.

IMPLEMENTATION: The new diocesan office will provide on-site targeted training and support for adults and young adults who currently minister to youth and for those who may have the desire to minister to youth.

ACTION: Every parish/cluster/vicariate needs to have a youth and young adult ministry director and/or team; ideally, one for youth and one for young adults.

IMPLEMENTATION: At the vicariate level, meetings for youth and young adult ministry leaders are currently being held. These meetings are a resource for parishes that seek a youth and young adult ministry leader. The diocesan office will

also provide resources and best practice help to parishes, vicariates, and schools.

ACTION: Develop guidelines for using technology to communicate effectively with youth and young adults.

IMPLEMENTATION: Guidelines for using technology in youth and young adult ministries are being developed.

Other activities

World Youth Day: The diocese is currently planning to participate in World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid, Spain. Package information can be found online at <http://www.catholicahawaii.org/staticpages/index.php/YouthDay>.

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PARISH/VICARIATE STORIES

Big Island Youth Day — A Collaboration of Parishes

Throughout the year, Big Island youth, young adults, and their ministry leaders gather every other month for prayer, fellowship, and planning. One of the largest events is the annual Big Island Youth Day. The location of Big Island Youth Day alternates between the vicariates, and each parish has an opportunity to host it. Youth and young adult ministry leaders from the host parish chair the event. The "baton" is passed at the close of the event. This year the event was held in the West Hawaii Vicariate at Sacred Heart Parish in Hawi and the day's theme was "Chillin' in Ephraim," from the Gospel of John 11:54.

On the afternoon of Friday, March 26, young people from all parts of the Big Island gathered at the county park in Hawi. Following icebreakers, dinner, and the Stations of the Cross, the "With Grateful Hearts" vocations concert took place. After the concert, the youth and their leaders headed to Sacred Heart Parish for more evening activities and a sleepover.

On Saturday morning, Bishop Larry celebrated Mass with the group. The theme for the day was centered on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Each youth group made banners that portrayed their assigned work of mercy. After breakfast, the young people marched in procession, with banners,

2.5 miles from Sacred Heart Parish to the county park. Passersby waved and honked their horns; some even slowed down to ask what church they were from and encouraged them to continue spreading the gospel message.

At the park, Msgr. John Mutiso Mbinda talked with the group about his mission to bring clean water to the people of Kenya. The Big Island Youth Day planning committee presented Msgr. Mbinda with a check for his project. The monies were raised through a variety of service projects the youth had completed in their own parishes. Afternoon activities included a sharing of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that were studied by the youth in the form of skits. The day ended with hugs and calls of "a hui hou" as all participants headed back to their parishes, each with a new friend, a new spark in their eyes, closer on their walk with Jesus.

Best Practices

The success of the youth and young adult programs and activities described in these stories reveals the importance of best practices.

- Identify at the outset program goals and themes.
- Have collaborative parish leadership



Participants from this year's Big Island Youth Day, "Chillin' in Ephraim"

and the support of pastors.

- Gather youth and young adults often and allow time for fellowship. Young people who know each other will take the lead in introducing others to their peers.

- Welcome and involve youth and young adults in event planning. When involved, young people gain a better understanding and appreciation for the event and what it means; the theme will be relevant.

- Ensure "must haves" at meetings, especially icebreakers, fun games, and food.

- Start with service-oriented opportunities. Young adults are busy, but if given an opportunity to serve a good cause they are likely to make time to participate. The core group that attends regularly will want to hang out beyond the service experience, and fellowship, bible studies, and other activities follow naturally.

- Begin by doing something, but take the time needed to grow a program. Don't be overly intense about forming young adult ministry. Be laid back, have fun, and take it easy. Young adults are attracted to that!