

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 #3. (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 #3: Faith Formation

Desired outcome: Parish and school faith formation programs are funded, have trained leaders, and help youth and families understand and live their beliefs and be involved in the spiritual life of their parishes.

By Jayne Mondoy

Diocesan Director of the Office of Religion Education and chair of the coordinating task force for faith formation

Planned actions and their implementation

ACTION: Meet annually with each vicariate to assess current state of faith formation programs and identify strengths and needs.

IMPLEMENTATION: Task force members will soon complete their first round of listening sessions in each vicariate. There is increasing evidence of parish and school programs that are intentionally intergenerational, draw people into participation, and guide them to more fully live their faith, especially through engagement in Christian mission and service.

ACTION: Collaborate with the leadership task force to provide training for faith formation leaders.

IMPLEMENTATION: Task force chairpersons are working collaboratively with the leadership task force to design and implement training for faith formation leaders.

ACTION: Create a centralized repository for faith formation resources.

IMPLEMENTATION: A comprehensive list of faith formation topics, speakers, and recommended resources will be available on-line by September 2010. Its formal launch will be announced through the eNews.

ACTION: Assist parish and school faith formation leadership committees and teams to establish new programs and assessments where needed.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Hawaii Catholic Schools report: Catholic schools exist in partnership with parents to form the minds and hearts of children in their witness to and relationship with Jesus Christ. To this end, Catholic schools have a religion curriculum based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This year was the second year that all elementary and secondary schools were measured by the Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education (ACRE). ACRE measures the knowledge of the faith and the beliefs, attitudes, practices, and perceptions of students in Catholic and parish education programs.

All schools improved their overall scores on the ACRE. Both Catholic and non-Catholic students score best on the domains relating to God and the Church and poorest on the domains relating to morality, literacy, and Church history. Students at all levels show agreement with items relating to their relationship with Jesus and their images of God. In general, findings show that the behavior and attitudes about their faith are deemed positive by children raised in an environment that supports traditional Catholic values and practices. Thus, it is important for Catholic families to attend Mass regularly, pray together as a family, participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and share the importance of what it means to be Catholic today.

Parish report: Parish religious education and youth ministry programs are invited to participate in ACRE on a voluntary basis. The following parish story highlights the experience at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Ewa Beach.

Other faith formation activities

- Providing access to a variety of faith formation standards, assessment protocols, and resources.
- Organizing and hosting the annual faith formation conferences on the islands of Kauai, Oahu, and Maui; participating in the Big Island Enrichment Day.
- Collaborating with the Office for Persons with Disabilities to provide sacramental preparation program support and resources for those with special needs.

Task force members

Jayne Mondoy, Chairperson
Dr. Carmen Himenes, Co-chairperson
Stephanie Conching
Marjorie Fujimoto

Betsey Gunderson
Kathy Jaycox
Christina Malins
Dr. Pete Steiger
Anna Weaver

PARISH STORY



OLPH catechists study and share Scripture: (l-r) Justin Sniffen (Confirmation I team), Aurora Agcaoili (First Communion/First Reconciliation) and Milagros Caparas (catechist's aide).

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Assesses Faith Formation

Our Lady of Perpetual Help is on a mission to build the Kingdom of God through encountering Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament, and to bring glory to God by providing a sense of belonging to all people through prayer, service, and sharing of gifts.

Given this noble task, the faith formation leadership team at OLPH has turned to the use of formal assessments to evaluate mission effectiveness. Assessment results help them to identify the faith formation needs of adults and understand what children are learning and how adults and children are living their faith in their lives.

Over thirty adults involved in parish faith formation ministries participated in the Information for Growth (IFG) self-assessment survey. This survey assists individuals to evaluate their personal level of religious knowledge and spirituality. It also provides the parish faith formation leaders with group information to use in planning ongoing faith formation initiatives. The IFG bases its blueprint on the Six Dimensions of Adult Faith Formation Content outlined in the U.S. Bishops' document, *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States*.

Children and youth in both the parish and school participated in the Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education (ACRE). An integrated assessment tool, ACRE provides faith knowledge questions (cognitive domain) and questions related to religious beliefs, attitudes, practices, and perceptions (affective domain). ACRE bases its

blueprint on the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Assessment results were informative, encouraging, and helped faith formation leaders to evaluate and revise their programs. In doing so, Our Lady of Perpetual Help is helped to faithfully live out its mission.

For information on IFG and ACRE, contact Jayne Mondoy, director, Office of Religious Education: jmondoy@rcchawaii.org or (808) 203-6745.

OLPH Best Practices

- Prepared a mission-inspired faith formation plan that is comprehensive, clearly communicated, and intentionally intergenerational. With worship (liturgy, retreat, spirituality, and prayer) as their central focus, parish faith formation programs address the virtues of belonging to community, education and formation, and evangelization and service to the larger community.
- Recruited a highly qualified faith formation core team and program leaders who are empowered by their pastor and joyfully embrace their mission.
- Leaders who themselves are committed to ongoing formation. OLPH leaders regularly participate in online faith formation certificate programs, such as the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) through the University of Dayton.
- A pastor who allocates the resources necessary to sustain and enhance faith formation programs.