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Summer 2010

New Evangelization Ministries is a non-profit ministry founded by Deacon Ralph Poyo to assist Pastors and pastoral teams in their efforts to bring genuine conversion to the heart of every member of their parish community.

Where is Deacon Ralph
this summer?

Steubenville
Youth
Conferences

Steubenville @
Franciscan:
July 9th-11th, 2010

Steubenville @
Springfield, MO
July 16th -18th, 2010

Steubenville
San Diego
July 23rd – 25th, 2010

Crossing the Goal Men's
Conference
Cleveland, OH
August 13th -15th, 2010

A Key Focus of NEM Ministry – To Follow Jesus

Those who have been following N.E.M. from the beginning always ask how things are going. With the economy headed downward, we can sense the concerns from those who worry that the ministry will struggle as well. I suspect that most people would define success as having a large list of parishes on in the pipeline to help. While that is true in one sense, I am working hard to not do one simple thing – follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit. This one goal is THE goal that I am called to assist parishes in learning how to do. In doing this, I am not placing much effort on publicity yet. Why? I don't feel called to roll it out. I understand that this is a nontraditional method for starting a business and/or ministry, but I am sensing the need to just be faithful to what He is calling us to do. Where will you get the money to live on? Income is the miracle of trusting in God's providence. He has provided speaking opportunities that have accomplished not only the financial need, along with our monthly contributors, as well as the publicity. Even though we are not spending much time and money on publicity, our ministry is getting out there and we are increasing in the number of inquiries each year. They are approaching us for a wide variety of ways to help.

VISIT US ON THE WEB FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE
MINISTRY AND FUTURE UPDATES!
WWW.NEWEVANGELIZATIONMINISTRIES.ORG

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We feel called to follow the pace (slow for now) that our Lord is placing before us. We know that there is much to learn in the process of helping the parishes and we also understand the biblical principal from Psalm 127:1, “*Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build.*” We stand ready to follow every prompting of the Holy Spirit as our staff and Board discern His will for us.

We hope that you will continue to pray for us that as we grow in knowledge, we grow all the more in humility and docility. We simply want to be effective tools for the Holy Spirit to build the Kingdom Of God.

Gaining a New Pastoral Lens for Evangelization Infuses Parish Staff with New Vigor for the Battle!

Prior to our launch of N.E.M. (3 years ago), we were informed that Seminaries provide no formal training on Evangelization. Since that time I have heard that some are slowly providing a class or two. This is the meat and potatoes of the Great Commission. It is difficult to understand why this is not being done at more seminaries; however, the results of this are parishes that do Parish ministry without true evangelization in mind.

One of the best services that we offer is to train pastoral teams to gain a new lens for viewing their parish. The value of having someone come in from the outside is that they can see things that are often right in front of you but you never notice them because you are accustomed to looking that way. We know from our own 23-year experience in Parish Ministry that it is very easy to get bogged down and overwhelmed with the work just to distribute the Sacraments. Many Priests and Staff grow tired and frustrated in the attempt to offer solid programming for spiritual growth and grow weary as only a few participate in the feast. Why does this happen? They struggle to find creative ways to manipulate attendance by offering physical food and material prizes.

A new lens provides a parish staff with new hope, understanding and vigor to keep the battle of the souls of their flock. They begin to see why their efforts were not working and this opens a whole new avenue for brainstorming and ministry planning. Imagine how much is opened up to you when you are given your first pair of seeing lenses. You had no idea how much you couldn't see. Once you place them on your perception totally changes and the clarity with which you see give you a new appreciation for what you are looking at. This practical lens is what we get the most comments about thus far.

Churches Struggle with Multiple Visions

Having the opportunity to serve in several parishes to date has afforded us the benefit of gleaning some very important insights that will serve other parishes in the future. One of the key elements in a parish S.W.O.T. (Strengths, Weaknesses, Observations, Threats) evaluation is the interviews with staff. We seek to gain a better understanding of what each person in leadership understands Evangelization to be. For them - What does the completed task of evangelizing someone look like? In every parish evaluated thus far, the results have been very similar. Except for a couple of instances, there have been just as many visions or understanding of that conclusion as there were staff members. This is a critical issue if you want your entire parish to grow in the same direction, into a relationship with Christ.

Imagine being Moses and you have the task of moving ten thousand people out of Egypt and there are no instructions given to each of the tribal leaders. When do they begin? Which way do they travel? What speed will they travel? What happens when someone falls behind? For Moses to successfully lead his people to the Promised Land, he had to organize his leadership with an infrastructure that will enable them to become unified in their efforts. Even with reliable leadership guiding the Israelites, another critical element leading to their success was the fact that every family (tribe) would look out for each other. They would make certain that anyone falling behind would be assisted and notify the leaders if a need to stop was presenting itself.

Most parishes have staffs and volunteer leaders that basically watch out for their own territory and may or may not work well together. Pastors, already overwhelmed with the responsibilities placed upon them, welcome the opportunity to leave their leadership to do their portion of the ministry. This frees them to focus on the tasks unique to their office.

I am not condemning this practice but pointing out that if little or no effort is placed in organizing their leadership to control of their direction, then you will generally find a parish becoming what I call a "*Maintenance Parish*." They simply try to keep the same programs going because that is all they feel they can handle. This is not to detract against the efforts of staff; rather a recognition that the pressure put on staff can be overwhelming at times. However, the questions remain, where are we leading our people? Are our current ministry efforts effective? When we have finished a program, do we witness the fruits? The first step in bringing about a genuine parish wide conversion is to understand what evangelization is and lead the leadership into it.

Why?

Because you can't give what you don't have.

**HOW CAN YOU
HELP?**

- Pray for us and the parishes we minister to!
- Subscribe to the Prayer Warrior Team.
- Prayerfully consider supporting NEM financially.