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2007 Ministry Report

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.



At the close of 2007, four parishes around the country have “signed on” with New Evangelization Ministries.” Holy Family Parish in Steubenville, Ohio signed on as the inaugural parish for the ministry. Sacred Heart Parish in Palestine, Texas; and one Pastor of two parishes in Minnesota: St. John the Baptist in Dayton and St. Albert in Albertville asked to be a part of New Evangelization Ministries. As of the Christmas break, all four parishes had been given in-pew surveys and evaluations by Deacon Ralph.

Holy Family Parish has received their parish report gleaned from the evaluation and is finishing up their RPT (Retreat-Planning-

Training) Sessions. We are currently working on the reports for the remaining parishes and Deacon Ralph will be returning to Minnesota to lead Pastoral Teams at both parishes in their R-P-T Sessions. Sacred Heart in Texas is scheduled to begin their R-P-T sessions sometime after Easter.

We are continuing to develop and fine-tune many aspects of the process as we respond to both the general and specific needs of each parish. Deacon Ralph has found that while he encounters similar evangelistic and catechetical dilemmas in every parish he evaluates, he also knows that each of them are very unique and require different strategies to most effectively evangelize their own parishioners.

About Deacon Ralph



After over 20 years “in the trenches” of youth ministry, evangelistic speaking, and parish religious education, Deacon Ralph Poyo has recently founded New Evangelization Ministries to bring to fruition Pope John Paul II’s call for a “new evangelization” in our time. He travels across the country working with pastors and their teams to identify areas of need in their respective parishes, and empowering them with the tools and vision necessary to become self-evangelizing communities. At home in Steubenville, Deacon Ralph loves spending time with his wife Susan and their five daughters.

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WWW.NEWEVANGELIZATIONMINISTRIES.ORG

One of the most difficult challenges in this ministry is that parishes have become so program- oriented that they struggle to break out of their respective comfort zones and have difficulty envisioning ministry being done another way. As such, parish staff members have lost sight of what should be their first priority: creating opportunities for the continual conversion of every single parishioner. Instead of this being the norm, pastors, ministry leaders and educators now find themselves in a *battle* to win hearts for God and keep people involved in parish life.

Picture, if you will, God coming to you and telling you that He wants to use you to transform your parish.

The key thing is that for this to happen as He desires, you must allow Him to enter your “holy of Holies” and change you. How open would you be to this?

Everybody wants to be holy but no one wants to pay the death that holiness requires; at least, not according to someone else’s schedule.

As a Church, we often default to using programming as the basis of

Reflections on the Ministry Year

“Faith is strengthened when it is given to others! It is in commitment to the Church’s universal mission that the new evangelization of Christian peoples will find inspiration and support.” -Redemptoris Missio #2

Parish activities because this can be done without a genuine sacrifice on the part of the leader or the participants. The deliverer of the message no longer has to sacrifice – to allow the Lord to speak through his or her conversion experience and brokenness - to give the message away. We can stand behind our walls, masks and defenses and call others to change, while we have simply learned to rearrange our behavior instead of allowing true transformation. This was Jesus’ frustration with the Pharisees: they had reduced everything down to the simple program of *obedience*, to a set of rules.

Jesus desires total access to the very hearts he died for- the hearts we protect- with all our gifts given to us by God. These gifts were meant to enhance our relationship with Him, but often they are used to

avoid Him.

These are the basic messages that NEM seeks to bring to Parish Pastoral Teams so that those who serve in the trenches of God’s vineyard can do the work and bring about a genuine harvest. The work of conversion always begins within the prophet himself. Look at the change of Moses before he led the Israelites out of Egypt.

He had to first allow the Lord to transform him from an Egyptian prince to a humble “shepherd”. Through this conversion, he came to better understand who God is and how he wishes to provide for all. Isn’t that our mission too?

NEM is bringing to the forefront basic questions that are challenging the men and women, who comprise these Pastoral Teams, to honestly evaluate the depth of their own relationship with Christ.

Christ. The question becomes, ‘what do **they** have to offer someone who does not know God and wants to find out if God is real? Words? While words are important and essential to the work of evangelization, there must be more. NEM seeks to help them understand this on both a personal and “corporate” level. As Deacon Ralph always says, “you can’t give what you don’t have.” We are committed to helping parishes reorient their ministry to more effectively evangelize their parishioners.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Pray for us and the parishes we minister to!
- Subscribe to the Prayer Warrior Team.
- Sign up for the newsletter list.
- Prayerfully consider supporting NEM financially.
- Spread the word and visit our website for more info!

Financially, we are receiving income from various sources. Some have signed on to help us monthly and we are greatly moved by their sacrifice and commitment. The Lord has moved others at Parishes to donate funds and, of course, those we are currently serving have been contributing. If you didn’t know, NEM charges no fees for our services. We simply ask parishes to cover expenses and invite them to pray and do what God calls them to do. While money is obviously needed for payroll, equipment and ministry expenses, we don’t want that to be a focus of what God has called us to do. Our mission is to be sent! If He is sending, He will provide the needs for the mission.



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