

On Saturday, November 9, 2019 “Imagine the People of God” workshop took place in Peter O’Neill Hall. Fifty-six parishioners participated in learning about the 2019 LRSP initiatives. At the end of each presentation participants were asked to respond using Post-It notes. The following includes their responses.

#### Initiative 1 Become an Inclusive Community and Engage Parishioners

Our catholic faith calls us to spread the love of God and the Gospel message to everyone. Jesus welcomes those who live on the margins. We are all called by our baptism to continually live out our faith. We will build a foundation of openness and action – welcome and honor everyone to the best of our ability and respect the gifts they bring to our community – all ages, cultures, ethnicities, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, political opinions, and wherever they are in their faith journey.

#### Imagine

1. Sit in a different area of the church and introduce myself to a younger person.
2. Encourage DEQS behavior at all events. The opener to all meetings where all parishioners is invited. In general, spend 5-10 minutes to get to know people better. Build community 1<sup>st</sup> and always.  
DEQS D Door Openers E Encouragers Q Questions S Silence  
Silence- Not rushing to ask the next thing, listening and allowing time
3. Look for a person you have seen at GA but don’t know. Engage them in conversation.
4. It would be helpful to identify new and visiting people. How to do this is a problem. Perhaps if parishioners wore name tags. Anyone without a name tag could be considered either new or visiting.
5. Spanish mass one / month. Beer making club for millennials/young adults. Black musician’s group.
6. Let all human beings participate in the sacraments.
7. Always make a point to meet someone new each time I come to GA. Compliment someone.
8. Teach kids of confirmation that after you get confirmed it’s just the start, not the end of Catholic life.
9. Talk and engage with people from the church, not just those you know. Take the time to meet new people and grow the community.
10. Hear women’s voices and experiences at homily time.
11. Remember what it was like when we were “younger”, 15, 18, 21, 24, without children, and with children.
12. Mentorship for career and family.
13. Every commission does one family focused event.
14. Listen more, instead of monopolizing conversation.
15. Being less judgmental and open with the community (mainly youth). Take a hint from what schools do as they talk and work with children all the time.
16. Reaching out to youth in different ways of communication (social media) and answering their questions about the church.
17. Reach out to young families with interest in their involvement and try to help them stay involved by questioning their interests and needs.
18. Complimenting music ministry—especially young people singing acknowledgement at mass often.
19. Invite all to communion and a meal often church to encourage mixing. Small groups formed and then meet as large group to meet new people.
20. Programs to attract desired audiences. Make GA the path by which people realize their goals-for which they are passionate.

21. Mass where the youth are the lectors, greeters, ushers, communion ministers, choir, music selections by the youth.
22. Greeters after mass along the back of church-thanking people for attending-shaking hands-more engagement.
23. Sit in a new spot and talk to these people after mass-unconditional love.
24. Be more openly welcome of the LGBTQ community. Make it obvious to the open public not just Catholics. There is a stereotype that Catholics are against different sexual orientations. We need to make sure the world knows the views about Catholic inclusivity.
25. Begin with LGBT team/ministry with GA.
26. Questions at the beginning of mass that people get a moment to talk about with someone they don't know (if they want). Name tags (occasionally).
27. Read Jim Martin's book together.
28. What if we had gatherings for just young people? Like the Basilica Block party? Not all the time-once or twice a year.
29. Create an (ask the priest" fireside chat to bring questions to a safe environment.
30. I want to practice my faith with my children, not my children in daycare.
31. Small group Sunday worship.
32. We could be more inclusive by broadcasting the idea that we can be whoever we want to be.
33. Think "church" in a bigger way; communion, women, lay folks.
34. As an early childhood volunteer (kindergarten) an opportunity to meet with/visit with parents. Let them know our goals for helping to grow the kids in faith.
35. Provide events where you can talk to and engage with people younger and older.
36. Keep doing the "stupid mixer games", they help people feel included.
37. More of us would make a point of conversing and including with others of different cultural backgrounds.
38. Open the doors to LGBTQ-invite-witness their marriage. They're following their consciences.
39. Having parish wide community service events specifically working with the youth in some capacity. Working with individuals in the LGBTQ community. This will help show us we are compassionate and sensitive to their beliefs.
40. Say hello to people we don't know.
41. Breaking open the word format during mass for all to participate in.
42. We would not make assumptions about others, especially based on sex and age.
43. We would focus resources on those in the margins, not the older white adults.
44. We would welcome all people actively.
45. Greeters who engage people coming in w/questions or so and who can connect them with someone new.
46. Allow gay marriage. Allow women to be ordained.
47. Greeters of all ages. Female presence in leadership and liturgy. Women/lay homily. Speak on relevant issues address head on the issues of today.
48. Address and discuss major issues; homosexuality, divorce, birth control.
49. Have more diverse masses. We do the same music, same homily at every service on weekends. Ideas: Youth Mass.
50. Body language-show positive way of communicating with others (i.e. Smile, eye contact, be at level as the person's culture or style of communication.) Perhaps have a welcoming theme, like "ship ahoy" welcome to the shore!

Commented [NR1]:

51. Express more often that everyone is welcomed. Challenge people to meet new people/introduce themselves like DEQS. Include messages for specific groups of people like younger kids.
52. I love Paul's challenge change happens with clarity and intention. Imagine giving a "take away" clear, concise, actionable every Sunday. Young people and all areas of diversity need to be seen and heard. They need to see themselves in the Body of Christ-the church.
53. Somehow share the Catholic view on LGBTQ in depth more than "that's what God want". While true, it is off putting when you don't fully understand Theology of the Body, John Paul II's teaching. Maybe a seminar on it . It would even be good for non-LGBTQ people to see that things like being open to life is more than just being against abortion, but that also means we don't use artificial birth control
54. Meal times so both new and current parishioners have a chance to talk to each other.
55. Take time to meet new parishioners every week. Smile a lot. Have eye contact.
56. Provide groups, education, sharing to get in touch with our own, internal feelings about race, gender, LGBTQ, etc. to help me be more comfortable in discussing welcoming them. "Minion" to communities of minorities, outcasts.
57. Share experiences with one another in a non-threatening atmosphere.
58. Ask greeter to engage people at the entrance asking questions or if they have any questions about our parish. I should do the same before and after mass.
59. Step up the DEX. Have people sit in new areas of the church around people they never sit by. Make Coffee and Crumbs more interactive with people sitting next to people they don't know. Encourage this at all gatherings.
60. Music that attracts a younger audience.
61. Provide meeting space for communities once a month. Hard to host in a house; for D/HH and other cultures. Body language and welcoming say: "you are always welcome here." Talk about relationships and family future of the church.
62. Advertise welcomes, not activities like fish fry and stuff. A lot of the activities hosted aren't for the younger generation. Just because you like it doesn't mean everyone does.
63. Never, never, never mention anything about being "right with the church" to be able to or allowed to receive communion. Never, never, never, never, never ever! All are welcome! All are welcome! All, All, All This is a very hurtful position the Church takes and it is wrong!