Guidelines for Centering Prayer

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❖ Choose a sacred word as the symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within.

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❖ Sitting comfortably with eyes closed, settle briefly and silently introduce the sacred word as the symbol of your consent to God's presence and action within. Once you have done so, you can simply drop the silent word.

Guidelines for Centering Prayer

❖ When your thoughts (sensations, feelings, images and reflections) intrude, simply return ever so gently to the sacred word.

Guidelines for Centering Prayer

❖ At the end of the prayer period, remain in silence with eyes closed for a couple of minutes.

Priest Work History

*A Collaboration between **Chicagoland VOTF** & **SNAP***

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Reported by Bob Kopp, VP, Chicagoland VOTF

National VOTF Conference
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in Detroit on June 10-12, 2011

Priest Work History

Current State

- When a priest is credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor:
  - Do the Catholics in the pew hear from the hierarchy?
  - Do parishioners learn of the priest's previous assignments?
  - Do parishioners learn how long he was stationed at each assignment?
  - Do parishioners at each assignment learn of other credibly accused priests who were stationed there, maybe at the same time?

Priest Work History

Ideal Future State

- When a priest is credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor:
    - The hierarchy notifies civil authorities immediately.
    - The hierarchy notifies each of the credibly accused priest's previous assignments of the accusations.
    - The hierarchy notifies each of the credibly accused priest's assignments of all his other assignments and which years he was stationed there.
    - The hierarchy notifies each of the credibly accused priest's assignments of all other credibly accused priests who were also stationed there at the same time.

Priest Work History

Project Description

- Collaboration between Chicagoland VOTF and SNAP was a win-win project.

- Realization that answers to above questions can be found in public domain.

- *Official Catholic Directory* is located in library reference rooms.
    - Has been published annually since 1817.
    - Information provided by the hierarchy.

- Other useful information found on websites:
    - Archdiocese of Chicago
      (via link from USCCB)
    - Bishop Accountability
    - U. S. Postal Service

Priest Work History

<u>Chicago project process</u>

- Involved extraction of priest work history data from official Roman Catholic Church source;

- Involved accurate coding of extracted data into spreadsheets for assignment pattern recognition;

- Analysis of data addressed each question posed;

- Development of cogent graphical results;

- Preparation of final archdiocesan report.

Priest Work History

Internet data sources

- Archdiocesan website provides:

    - List of active parishes and parochial schools with addresses and ZIP codes.

- Bishop Accountability website provides:

    - List of credibly accused priests by diocese with religious order and ordination date;

    - Newspaper and other sources of information about accusations.

- U. S. Postal Service website provides:

    - Lists ZIP codes by county.

Priest Work History

<u>Ancillary project findings</u>

- Total number of priests in diocese and total number of parishes by year
- Analysis of credibly accused priest data yields
  - Annual pattern of <u>credibly accused priests</u> in archdiocese
    - ➢ Credibly accused priests by year
    - ➢ Total number of priests by year
    - ➢ % of credibly accused priests to total number of priests by year
- Annual pattern of <u>parishes</u> in archdiocese
  - Parishes ministered by credibly accused priests by year
  - Total number of parishes by year
  - % of parishes ministered by credibly accused priests to total number of parishes by year

Priest Work History

<u>Typical project data analysis</u>

- Which ZIP codes were credibly accused priests most frequently assigned to?

- How many man-years of ministry are represented in those assignments by ZIP code?

- Are there any obvious socio-economic-demographic patterns in those assignments by ZIP code?

- Were there parishes or institutions that housed more than one credibly accused priest at the same time?

Priest Work History

<u>Next steps</u>

- Use BA.org list of credibly accused priests

- Target major dioceses in USA

- Target dioceses that have filed for protection under bankruptcy laws

- Analyze these dioceses for similar patterns of credibly accused priest assignments

Priest Work History

Major Archdioceses:

- Boston, MA
- Chicago, IL – done
- Cincinnati, OH
- Los Angeles, CA
- Louisville, KY
- Miami, FL
- Omaha, NE
- Philadelphia, PA
- Seattle, WA

Bankruptcy protected dioceses:

- Davenport, IA
- Fairbanks, AK
- Milwaukee, WI (A)
- Portland, OR (A)
- San Diego, CA
- Spokane, WA
- Tucson, AZ
- Wilmington, DE

(A) Indicates Archdiocese

Priest Work History

Projected results

- Chicago project had 97 credibly accused priests.

- Next 16 dioceses bring total number of credibly accused priests to 1,055.

- Will assumption of a universal pattern of assignments be upheld?
Or refuted?

- Will role of Vatican hierarchy involvement be made visible?
Or denied?

Adapting to Change

Reshaping our Church for the Future

Universal Church Reform

- Brief History

- Vision for the Platform

- Engaging the membership

- Forming separate initiatives

Three Initiatives

- Bishop's Initiative

- Women's Initiative

- Priest's Initiative

Parish Voice Communities

A New Domain for Prayer Based Affiliates

Parish Voice Communities

Ordinary Catholics who:

1. See the Church In Disarray...
   In Need of Change

2. Believe Road to Change Lies
   in Prayer and the Holy Spirit

3. Willing to Join Together
   in Parish Voice Communities

A Parish Ministry

1. Explore issues and petitions that benefit the Church & its members & pray for God's guidance

2. Undertake parish projects and services that enhance the community we share

3. Carry out joint projects w/other affiliates & w/national VOTF

4. Become part of the FABRIC of the Church

Yet A Distinct Type of Affiliate

1. Stand alone group w/in a parish, or

2. Community "cluster" representing several parishes, or

3. Prayer team extension of an existing affiliate, or

4. "Virtual" community comprising participating members of S&CG on-line intercessory prayer group

Resources Available

1. S&CG resource center on VOTF website offers topics to explore, prayer forms & services

2. Wide variety of meeting formats: Liturgies, Litanies, Psalms, Novenas w/backgrounds, examples & references

3. On-Line intercessory prayer group

Launching
Parish Voice Affiliates

1. Solicit input from a cross section of members

2. Run the idea by the VOTF leadership

3. Send to active and inactive affiliates

4. Begin VOTF-wide recruitment using "Vineyard," Website, Facebook and Twitter.

5. Send Member Comments to Kevin Connors – fcon101596@optonline.net