

PASTORAL PLAN OF ACTION

September 1, 2002

National Black Catholic Congress IX Chicago, Illinois

PRINCIPLE: SPIRITUALITY

Within a Year to Plant the Seed

Identify and incorporate cultural symbols, language and experiences in parish liturgies.

Initiate parish-based Scripture study programs from an Africentric perspective for all age groups.

Promote and support the interest and response of Black women and men desiring to dedicate their lives to various aspects of Church ministry.

Within Three Years to Nurture Growth

Develop parish and arch/diocesan lecture series or seminars that teach about the contributions and history of Black Catholics in the Church.

Within Five Years to Establish Roots

Create/establish a National Black Research Institute (in partnership with the National Black Catholic Congress and other national organizations of Black Catholic leadership) to:

- . identify resources and maintain a current national database of resource speakers, facilitators, teachers, and other experts who can be called upon to assist parishes and dioceses in ministerial development and program implementation for peoples of African descent.
- . commission the publication of a well-researched and inspirational manual on the lives of Black Saints.
- . collect and disseminate information on Black Catholic interests and concerns (spirituality, canonizations, social and cultural demographics, poverty, etc.)

PRINCIPLE: PARISH LIFE

Within a Year to Plant the Seed

Identify the gifts and talents of parishioners and develop plans to affirm them on the parish level.

Within Three Years to Nurture Growth

Identify and/or begin the formation of formal leadership programs for various roles of parish lay leadership.

Within Five Years to Establish Roots

Using newsletters, the web, resource clearinghouses, or other networking techniques, develop parish-to-Parish sharing initiatives that promote maintaining, and strengthening Black Catholic parishes in the community.

PRINCIPLE: YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Within a Year to Plant the Seed

Identify ways to involve youth and young adults in parish leadership roles and increase involvement in-liturgies, e.g. lectors, Eucharistic ministers, choir members; greeters, etc.

Within Three Year to Nurture Growth

Create a network of parishes and resources for parish collaboration, networking for Contact, cultural experiences and leadership development.

Within Five Years to Establish Roots

Involve young adults in all aspects of Black Catholic ministry: advisory boards, and planning team for diocesan young adult gatherings.

PRINCIPLE: CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Within a Year to Plant the Seed

Investigate and develop, on the parish and diocesan level, new and creative ways to provide financial assistance for Black Catholic schools.

Within Three Years to Nurture Growth

Locate and/or establish grants and scholarships to support Black educators in their roles as teachers and administrators for religious education programming.

Within Five Years to Establish Roots

Recruit, hire, and maintain adequate/competent administration and staff that supports an effective Black Catholic school program.

PRINCIPLE: SOCIAL JUSTICE

Within a Year to Plant the Seed

Initiate parish-based meetings to identify the social, economic and political needs of the parish community and ministerial ways to address them.

Within Three Years to Nurture Growth

Develop and implement a comprehensive social justice training program that connects Catholic Social Teaching with Sacred Scripture.

Create parish social justice ministries that work to inform and address issues of social justice.

Within Five Years to Establish Roots

Establish organizational ties with other Church, community and government agencies that advocate for solutions to social justice issues relevant to Catholic Social Teaching.