



Small Group Reflection on the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for Ministry with

Asian and Pacific Islanders

Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester

Living Our Mission

Introduction

The mission statement and pastoral priorities from the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Asian and Pacific Islanders (API) provide a central focus for planning and evaluation as well as for prayer, reflection, and dialogue in the daily life of Asian Ministry in our diocese. At this particular moment, the key challenge is to connect this declaration of mission with the life and work of each parish (staff, parish council, leaders, groups, parishioners) and small Christian community and use it as a lens both to review previous efforts and to plan future activities.

The following questions provide a format to be used in small group discussions to deepen awareness and integrate the mission in everyday life. This format is based on the Appreciative Inquiry Approach, a style of examination that brings to light what is most useful from the reflection process. The first question in each section focuses on discovering and appreciating how you have lived the mission in the past. The second question focuses on specific opportunities to live the mission in the future. Ideally, these questions would be used in the context of prayer and reflection allowing for adequate time, as part of meetings, in a special retreat, in materials available for parishioners, and other creative ways you develop.

The results of these discussions can also be used to revise or update the mission statement of the parish. The Office of Pastoral Resources and Planning has additional materials available to develop mission statements.

For more information about ministry with Asian and Pacific Islanders in our diocese please contact:

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Living Our Mission

Mission Statement

We, the Asian Catholic Community of the Diocese of Rochester, are a community of communities united by our Catholic faith, Asian culture and traditional values. In the spirit of “Harmony in Faith,” we are called to:

- *Embrace all God's people as brothers and sisters in Christ*
 - *Share the Good News and be a witness to others*
 - *Live a profound spirituality rooted in prayer and tradition*
 - *Honor our rich cultural heritage and share our gifts with the Church*
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Please share a story about a moment or activity when this mission statement was best lived out in our parish or small community during the past year.

What factors or characteristics seem to bring about or inspire this understanding of our mission?

How can we best integrate this mission into the life of our parish or small community over the next few months?

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Pastoral Priorities

These pastoral priorities will help us realize our mission of service and ministry every day in our parishes, families, and communities. As you reflect on the following questions, please refer to the API pastoral plan pages 11-16 or the brochure.

The State of the Family

"Seeking a better life"... the desire that moved Asian community members to immigrate in the first place and sustains them still.

Share one or two things that we did together last year that made you feel proud because they truly reflected an appreciation and love for family.

Based on the action steps identified in the API pastoral plan, what do you recommend that we do together as a parish or small community to strengthen the state of the family?

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Life in the Asian Community

"Celebrating culture and heritage"... the desire to keep alive the memories of the values and traditions from their countries of origin.

Over the past year, what moments or activities seem to have captured and best reflect our Asian heritage and culture?

Based on the action steps identified in the API pastoral plan, what can we do to deepen our experience of the rich cultural heritage of our native countries, and share the beauty of our Asian culture with the larger Church?

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Life in the Parish

"More lay opportunities in the U.S." ... the desire for deeper development as the People of God.

Think about a moment when you truly felt accepted, valued and empowered by your parish or small community. What happened to make you feel that way?

Based on the action steps identified in the API pastoral plan, how can the parish community (parish staff, leaders, groups, parishioners) and small communities foster more fully our baptismal vocation and sense of community?

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Involvement in the Local Community

"Live in harmony with people around me"... a common desire of all Asian community members to be at peace with and helpful to everyone, "regardless of culture and faith," especially the poor and disadvantaged, including recent immigrants.

Name one or two things that happened within our community last year that really demonstrated service and love towards the alienated, the poor, and the marginalized.

Based on the action steps identified in the API pastoral plan, what would you like to see happen over the next few months to deepen our spirit of mission and service of others?