



Hamilton Diocesan Plan....2006

How can Passionist Family Groups (PFG) support achievement of the goals?

The Bishop suggests that God is calling every person (people, priests, religious and Bishop) to be part of a journey together with Christ. The plan is a commitment for the future and is based on being proud to be Catholic.

The plan promotes three priorities for the diocese and it is hoped that everyone will see these as their (common) commitment, so that they will be involved, rather than hoping 'someone else' will do it.

1. Discovering God present among us through *Oases of Prayer*

The goal is that excellence & prayerfulness will be integral to worship, sacraments and devotion. This is a call to do more than 'go through the motions'. It calls for a right attitude in preparing and celebrating.

The PFGM can particularly assist in this priority by:

Make something of a monthly Passionist Family Group Mass.

- provide Power Point with images for words to music
- include a Power Point reflection after communion.
- have some 'attractive' music/songs
- involved the young people in this liturgy (commentators, lectors, welcomers, preparing Power Point etc)
- make something special of the Parish PFG birthday

Promoting other forms of prayer & ritual

- celebrating milestones

Encourage each Family Group to hold a home Mass each year

- this often welcomes partners 'of other faiths'
- allows many people to get to know their PP more deeply

2. Discovering God present among us through *Evangelisation*

The goal is based around the experience of the early Christians who 'proclaimed the Word of God boldly' (Acts 4:31). This is an outward call. It is not about inviting people in, but going out to them and welcoming them. It is an invitation to meet the risen Jesus and form a community relationship with him. It is not simply a call to join an institution

The PFGM can particularly assist in this priority by:

1. Make good information available about PFG's. Have PFG had 'bad press'? (Seen as either too social or too holy etc). We need to be aware of this and provide the right sort of publicity.
2. Many people don't understand what it is and therefore have not joined

3. Many single people think PFG's are only for families instead of people joining to become a family.
4. After the monthly Family Group Mass, gather the people and share.
 - have a cuppa afterwards (people these days appreciate good coffee!)
 - cup of tea table, needs to be where people mingle/gather.
 - have enough PFG people to serve (wear name tag and PFG badge)
 - hold a sausage sizzle or something similar afterwards (the aroma attracts)
 - have wine & cake on a special occasion
5. Newsletters should be used more
 - PFG's in parishes could swap newsletters to exchange ideas
 - should have some detailed outline at times about what we're doing
 - take it to or send it to those who don't 'attend'
 - encourage people to contribute
 - share the vision of PFG's (living communio)
5. Use parish noticeboard and include photos (show the fun/family side)
6. Take the time to speak with our PP and explain the PFG spirit and its potential
7. Remember Francis of Assisi, "*Preach always and if necessary, use words*". Our best way is not using a lot of words, but showing by doing
8. Use a candle at planning meeting of PFG leaders. Have this as a symbol and reminder for us to 'go out'
....be definite (roster) who we will go out to, not just 'general'
9. Reach out to invite someone who is not in a PFG to come to a monthly function
10. Someone must know (have a list) of which families have been 'lost' (those who used to belong). Can these be found, spoken to & re-invited?
11. Have members help out (volunteer) at the school & get involved this way (mixing with Generation Y parents) so as to get to know them and draw them in.
12. Be active in inviting people to join the PFGM as a way of living their faith
13. PFG Christmas Carol singing for 'shut-ins' etc (Gives example to and involves children, which is one of our Aims). Gift giving and visit at Christmas for these people is outreach
14. Every now and again we need renewal. In some parishes the PFG's may need renewal. Dialogue with PP about a 'relaunch' or other ways to raise awareness of PFG's, increase commitment etc.
15. Encourage PFG members (especially once a month if there is a Family Group Mass) to 'look out' for new or uninvolved parishioners and welcome them. This has to be a designated role for people who have the gift/ability/interest and wearing a name-tag helps.
16. Promote the September PFG Youth Retreat in Napier 24 –27 September 2006. This is a way of involving Generation Y
17. Promote involvement in International World Youth Day. Passionists are looking at a formative experience before and afterwards for youth who are associated with their charism.

3. Discovering God present among us in *Communio*

The goal is a commitment to be like the early Christians who lived 'together' and were 'of one heart & one soul' (Acts 4:32). This is the first goal of the Passionist Family group Movement. The diocesan goal is calling for a commitment for parish and school to be united in a common Catholic vision.

The PFGM can particularly assist in this priority by:

1. We will gather people and ask how do they feel about taking on the hospitality 'role' outlined in the plan.
2. We can visit people in their homes
3. We will liaise with Pastoral Council and help to identify people's needs, why they come, don't come, etc.
4. Touch base with people by personal visit phone etc and **give them a 'Silver Box'** (this can be done on by taking a name out of hat basis as a way of building a sense of 'one heart, one soul')
5. If we don't get to speak to someone at a monthly activity we can make a practice of encouraging one another to phone afterwards to acknowledge this and say 'Hi'
6. In between activities (e.g. meet with smaller (3-4) people/families on a 'out of hat' basis. This can happen 2 or 3 times a year.
7. On PFG birthday have all parish groups in the pastoral district come together (e.g. in Waihi parish all the PFG's did an item or an afternoon concert). This is a way of building up *communio* within a cluster of parishes
8. Parishes within a pastoral district could come together for co-ordinator meetings
9. When someone fills in a form (wants to join a PFG) someone needs to take personal responsibility for following up on this and not letting them wait
10. We need to do a 'study' within our parish PFG's. Invite people to share their experiences of being single after marriage (death, divorce etc) to learn how these people can be included more and what they need. (Have to understand the feelings and how to respond)
11. Become active in seeking to invite school parents to join a PFG and studying and sharing strategies for inviting Generation X & Y. These groups might need initially to be similar aged.
12. Support the activities of families within a PFG (watching children play Saturday sport, attending their concerts etc)