The Francis Effect and You
Sal Della Bella - sdb@archlou.org
Dr. Marti R. Jewell - mjewell@udallas.edu

Ideas for creating the “Francis Effect”

- Create a “View From The Pew” column in the bulletin which invites Catholics to share personal stories about the importance of their faith.
- Welcome visitors with good signage, trained greeters, parish information, etc.
- Organize group service activities around the city for both younger and older parishioners. Could include serving at soup kitchens, yard cleanup, visiting shut-ins, “fix it” projects, or other volunteer opportunities.
- Encourage families to purchase and use the Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers in your school newsletter.
- Use a “Scriptural Rosary for Justice and Peace” at school board, faculty, or other meetings as a way to pray for those who suffer from poverty, injustice, and disease throughout the world. (Available from the USCCB.)
- Start a discussion among the faculty about how your school can reach out to parents who are not Catholic and/or uninvolved with parish or school activities.
- Organize a prayer team and visit neighborhood households to offer prayer, kind words, etc.
- Provide listening sessions where attendees can confidentially share their grief, joys, struggles, etc. with pastoral leaders.
- Create opportunities through events, celebrations, etc. to foster community and “joy” for our faith.
- Ensure that all members of the Church know, embrace, and practice Catholic Social Teaching as to live out the social mission of evangelization.
- Make available “spiritual/pastoral listening stations” at shopping centers, malls, nursing homes, or other populated locations.
- Provide training for “first responders” (those who callers, visitors, and newcomers make initial contact with).
- Provide resources and outreach to families at sacramental moments.
- Develop methods for a collective response to local, national, and world events (i.e. Church bells ringing, lights on, chapel open, etc)
- Communicate the ways parishes, families, and individuals are having transformative effects in their local communities and wider society.
- Provide resources, including the Book of Rites, for the expanded use of blessings in the home and other settings at significant moments in people’s lives.
- Provide resources to assist newly married couples, parents of young children, and single young adults with a particular focus on introducing and sustaining them in parish life.
- Provide opportunities for Spiritual Direction. Retreats and/or Vocation Discernment for Young Adults.
- Create a blog with various bloggers on topics of spirituality that target Young Adults.
- Provide formation, advocacy, and service opportunities that engage young adults in the social mission of the Church.

Additional strategies can be found at:
- Parish Vitality - http://www.parishvitality.net/what-a-parish-can-do.html
Resources

Books

- A Big Heart Open to God: A Conversation with Pope Francis
  Pope Francis (HarperOne 2013)
- Disciples of All Nations: Your Guide to Living and Understanding the New Evangelization
  Josephine Lombardi (Twenty-Third Publications, 2014)
- Forming Intentional Disciples: Path to Know and Follow Jesus
  Sherry A. Weddell (Our Sunday Visitor, 2012)
- From Maintenance to Mission: Evangelization and the Revitalization of the Parish
  Robert S. Rivers (Paulist Press, 2005)
- Hispanic Ministry in the 21st Century: Present and Future
  Hosffman Ospino, editor. (Convivium Press, 2010)
- Jesus the Evangelist: A Gospel Guide to the New Evangelization
  Allan F. Wright (Franciscan Media, 2013)
- On Heaven and Earth: Pope Francis on Faith, Family, and the Church in the Twenty-First Century
  by Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Abraham Skorka (Image, 2013)
- Pope Francis: Conversations with Jorge Bergoglio: His Life in His Own
  Sergio Rubin, Francesca Ambrogetti (Putnum Adult, 2013)
- The Parish Guide to the New Evangelization
  Robert J. Hater (Our Sunday Visitor, 2013)

Websites

- Archdiocese of Louisville – www.archlou.org/evangelization
- John Paul II Center - http://www.johnpaul2center.org/Evangelization.htm
- Pathways to Parish Vitality Office for Parish Life, Diocese of Buffalo - http://www.parishvitality.net/

Documents

  Pope Francis's first apostolic exhortation, November 24, 2013.
- Lumen Fidei (The Light of Faith)
  The first encyclical of Pope Francis which was signed on June 29, 2013.

Downloadable Resources

- Key Quotes from Evangeli Gaudium - http://www.catholic herald.co.uk/news/2013/11/26/key-quotes-from-evangeli-gaudium/