

**New Haven Catholic Implementation Team Retreat  
February 18, 2023 Notes**

NHC Retreat Saint Thomas More, 268 Park St., New Haven

Attending : All Available Pastors and their designated representatives ( 1-4 per church)

Speakers: Fr. Marcin Pluciennik, Pastor of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish and Director of the AOHCT Office Healing & Deliverance Ministry, and Mary Fitzpatrick, a member of the Saint Teresa of Calcutta Leadership Team

9:00 – Celebration of the Holy Eucharist - Fr. Ryan celebrant

10:00 - Session I: Scripture in Motion – Fr. Marcin

- Parable of the Lost Sheep
  - the common call (and commandment) we have been given to go and make disciples eg. find the lost
  - the model that Jesus would leave the 99 to find the 1
  - Many Catholic opportunities: 33 percent of babies in Catholic households are not baptized, 65% Catholic marriages are separated, many are fallen-away (do not practice the Catholic faith)
- Current State of the Catholic Church in Hartford
  - Nationally, priests have reduced by 10,000 in the last 20 years
  - data on how the number AOHCT diocesan priests decline
  - 9 Reasons We All Want the Church to Grow ( to be distributed)

11:00 - Session II: A Growing Church- Fr. Marcin

- Change and Transition video ( to be distributed)

Fr. Marcin shared the journey of 4 churches merging in Manchester

- ≈ Used the Michael White/Tom Corcoran book Rebuilt as a guide for *Awakening the Faith, Reaching the Lost, and Making Church Matter*; coordinated nationally
- ≈ Approach calls for “anchors” of Leadership, Weekend Experience ( Homily and Music are key), Growing Deeper, Growing Wider... they are seeing all of this in last 4 years
- ≈ Focus on Homilies and Music as important
- ≈ Weekly meetings with Chairperson & Lay Leadership Committee
- ≈ Town Hall meetings so all are heard
- ≈ Service Model on Requests- Very welcoming on inquiries, not rule driven
- ≈ Stress ‘Love of God’ with beginners of all ages, not rules
- ≈ Need to be intentional about what fits in future. May need to “kill off” ministries, but with ending parties (wakes), not by neglect or ignoring
- ≈ Need to be intentional on unitive communications. For Manchester a communications manager is needed.
- ≈ ‘ Focus on Lost Sheep’ means reaching out and being invitational and welcoming
- ≈ Using small group ( about 8) weekly faith sharing in homes

Participants suggested the charts and video be made available to those who could not attend.

12:45PM – Concluding Prayer

Next meeting

Wednesday, March 22, St. Joseph Church Hall, 129 Edwards St.

Presentation by AOHCT parish merger experts. Joint session with NHC Implementation Team and New Haven parish Trustees and Finance Councils

6:15- 7:00P Stations of the Cross Art Exhibit and Light Refreshments

7:00- 8:15P Presentations & Q/A