

**FACILITATED CONVERSATION REPORT TO THE PARISHES OF  
OUR LADY OF LOURDES AND OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY  
May 22 and May 23, 2010**

2009 was a busy year for the Facilitated Conversation team consisting of clergy, staff and lay parishioners from the faith communities of Our Lady of Lourdes (OLOL) and Our Lady of the Rosary (OLR). Discussions were held nearly every other week on the issue of identifying collaborative possibilities between the two Parishes. At year's end a report was prepared and presented to Bishop Cunningham who accepted the recommendations. Parishes will continue for the foreseeable future to maintain their independent roles.

We now turn to you, the parishioners and ask for your support and participation as we go forward. Both faith communities pledged to work collaboratively in both the areas of youth and young adult ministry, and outreach and service. OLR will take the lead for the youth and young adult ministry and OLOL, the lead with outreach and service. The parishes also pledged to work in concert to advance evangelization and be available to assist less vibrant or struggling parishes.

In general, the youth and young adult initiative involves developing closer ties to Notre Dame, making better use of the Notre Dame facilities in religious education programs, our two parishes sharing ministry personnel and assisting with college campus ministries. Outreach and service would generally target the poor and the sick within our region. Evangelization's main premise is to introduce, reintroduce or reinforce Christ to others through serving their needs, something we do sometimes intentionally and sometimes by default, but regardless, an area that leaves much room for improvement.

What does this really translate to for both faith communities? Right now these recommendations exist only on paper, however, Bishop Cunningham is supportive of our Parish's developing and implementing these programs. So if there is truly a desire and a willingness to advance these initiatives by both faith communities, over the next weeks, months and years there will need to be participation and leadership coming out of the congregations. There will be a need for people who are willing to interact with others, people with innovative ideas, ones who can lead and transform these ideas into action, and people who have a mindset that anything is possible. God challenges us in the scriptures to move forward and to believe in Him to the point that our faith will carry us through change and into new life. In the coming months we will be seeking parishioners, new parishioners and long-term parishioners and ones ranging in age from teens to the most senior of us, people who are willing to take on this challenge and to start developing a broad based plan from which individual programs can be more fully developed and implemented. To keep the Church sustainable into the future, more of us must come forward and be willing to work on inter-parish endeavors. We hope many of you will participate.

The recommendations presented are on the back of this sheet....For those of you who are interested in viewing the entire final report, it is available on line at OLOL's website @ [Ourladyoflourdesutica.org](http://Ourladyoflourdesutica.org). There are also limited copies available for pick-up or review at both Church offices. And if you have questions, the authors of the Facilitated Conversation Report listed at the end of this document would be happy to discuss it with you.

**Recommendations:**

**Recognize that the unique strengths of both Our Lady of Lourdes and Our Lady of the Rosary Parishes will continue for the foreseeable future to maintain their independent roles.** These two parishes in their current structure meet the Bishop's directive that parishes be "resourced enough to be mission oriented, vibrant, fiscally sound, and enjoy the possibilities of stable, thriving futures." These parishes are located in high need areas, close to the only catholic schools in the region, with proximity to major employers and colleges and provide a much needed Catholic presence. Because of these strengths, we will be able to pursue the following collaborative recommendations:

1. **Commission Our Lady of Rosary to lead in engaging in a conversation with Notre Dame School, the Catholic School Office, and Superintendent to further strengthen the bond and further develop the youth focused charism of the parish.** This is especially important in light of the long-range plan for catholic education in our community at the Notre Dame Lane location. Possibilities include:
  - a. Increased use of the school facilities in Religious Education Program
  - b. Shared youth ministry personnel
  - c. Prepare to assist with the campus ministries of local colleges in the future
  - d. Prepare for the potential of shared fund raising for new facilities
2. **Commission Our Lady of Lourdes to lead in growing Outreach and Service by coordination of these activities in the community, to enhance the image of the significant social service ministries that are provided by our Catholic members.**
3. **Encourage the development of a structured Evangelization Plan for the community under the Vicar's supervision.**
4. **Continue common Penance Services and special events to improve efficiency by inviting more regional participation.**
5. **Engage less vibrant or struggling parishes in the community.**

**Respectfully submitted:**

*Marybeth McCall*

*Dick Vetere*

*Rev. Felix R. Colosimo*

Our Lady of the Rosary

*Steve Deery*

*Roger Cleveland*

*Rev. Joseph Salerno*

Our Lady of Lourdes