

## *Eastern Diocese Mini Mission Workshop*



Saturday, January 16, 2016 saw 35 clergy and faithful from 13 parishes of the Eastern Diocese gather at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, Massachusetts for a mini mission workshop to encourage and enhance sharing our faith throughout the diocese in this year of our Lord 2016. Bishop Paul Sobiechowski began the workshop by leading morning prayer.

Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich gave a presentation on Evangelism 101- reminding the folks gathered that Evangelism literally meaning “Good News” or “Gospel” is simply taking advantage of the opportunities to share what you know about Jesus with others. Evangelism is sharing and speaking to others about our experience with Jesus for the purpose of leading them into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Those present were reminded that one of the greatest things we can do for people is bring them to Christ who died for them. Fr. Sr. Rob reminded them that true evangelism means discipleship - it is a life that is changed from “going my way” to “going Christ’s way” for our Lord tells us that He is the way, the truth and the life. The participants were given numerous examples of how they could evangelize - from using community events for Evangelism to sharing ideas from a past National Mission Workshop of Steven Sjogren and Servant Evangelism with random acts of kindness. In the end the most important thing we can do is share the good news of Jesus using our experiences and our story to lead others to the One Who leads us - to take advantage of the opportunities to share God’s message of salvation.

Our Christian Catholic Spirituality was the second presentation of the workshop. Kathy Nemkovich spoke using Matthew Kelly’s Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality. The importance of these pillars will help us





come to better understand the abundant life that Jesus calls us to experience. Kathy spoke about each of the pillars and how they can become a solid foundation for living a genuine spiritual life. The Pillars are: Confession, Daily Prayer, The Mass, The Bible, Fasting, Spiritual Reading and The Rosary. She used experiences from her life and how these pillars have helped her grow in her faith and the ability to better share the good news of Jesus Christ. She ended by giving everyone seeds that they can go home and plant!

Knowing our Faith was the final presentation of the morning. Bishop Paul spoke to the participants about the importance of being prepared for Evangelism and that is by knowing the faith. That we can't share what we don't know. Bishop used various examples to make his point from the preparation of food to the Pre-Lenten and Lenten journeys to properly celebrate the Solemnity of our Lord's Resurrection. The purpose of the Pre-Lenten season was explained to the people as our Church prepares for this season so they are better prepared and have a better understand of their faith and Church.

Following lunch Karen Sobiechowski, the chair of the Eastern Diocese Mission and Evangelism commission, gave a presentation on the Prayer of Mission and Evangelism. Karen spoke about why we pray, the fruits of prayer and gave many examples of what we can be praying for today from our Church, neighborhood and world. Lighthouse prayers were shared with the group- Mom's in Prayer was encouraged for the



Moms present. Prayer Walking was explained- this was done at the first National Mission Workshop in Michigan many years ago. Karen also gave examples of prayers for your parish, church, clergy and others. Is it hoped that an

online prayer group will be established within the diocese as is currently being done from the Western Diocese. Karen and Kathy will be working to establish such a group for our diocese.



The groups then saw and heard presentations from diocesan parishes and their mission, outreach and evangelization efforts. Kathy Nemkovich presented a

power point of parishes that had submitted pictures and listing their activities such as Our Savior's Parish in Woonsocket, St. Casimir's Parish in Lowell and Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River. Other parishes also shared their mission and outreach efforts from Webster to Stratford to Norwich to Central Falls to Manchester. It was great to see these important efforts to share the goods news of Jesus Christ with others. Some of these efforts were: Clothing Drives, Food Drives, Prayer Shawl/Blanket Ministry, Veterans support drives, Homeless support, Soup Kitchen efforts, Operation Christmas Child, Souper bowl of Caring, free community Car Washes, Adopt a Family program, Crop Walk, Drug Return Program, Community Bible Studies, Co-operation with local Neighborhood watch, Suicide loss group support, Pay it Forward, AA and NA support and more.

A presentation was given on the PNCC Future Direction efforts begun by our last General Synod. Almost all participants were receiving the Future Direction monthly emails and were excited about the Year of Reverence that is just beginning. Fr. Adam Czarnecki the diocesan lay ministry chaplain spoke about this program that is being developed and that will be a part of our diocesan efforts. Fr. Sr. Rob reminded all of the 2016 action plan and what is needed for this to be implemented.

Bishop Paul Sobiechowski led a closing Prayer Service "Go, You are Sent" and



after receiving his blessing the clergy and faithful returned to their home parishes inspired to share the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in more effective ways. We thank the 11 clergy of the diocese who made the effort to attend and participate in this important workshop:



Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich, Fr. Adam Czarnecki, Fr. Robert Fredrickson, Fr. Michal Gitner, Fr. Zbigniew Kaszubski, Fr. Robert Koerber, Fr. Kris Rogalski, Fr. Henry Smolinski, Fr. Andrzej Tenus and Fr. Henryk Was. Also thanks to the Eastern Diocese Mission and Evangelism commission for planning this beautiful and uplifting time to help us in fulfilling the Great Commission of making disciples.

Please look for information forthcoming on a diocesan adult overnight retreat that will be scheduled for later this year under the spiritual direction of the retreat master Fr. Michal Gitner. We look forward to seeing you there!

*Prepared by, Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich*

