**SHAPE A MORE HUMAN SOCIETY**

**How can I, we create communities of solidarity and belonging?**

Statement coming from the Filipino community – We are grateful for this community but this is internalised and stays within my smaller Filipino community. How do I reach out further? How do I integrate into communities of the parish?

It’s important that all members of our different parish communities share and dialogue. How do we do this?

The young are marginalised. Teens feel uncomfortable. How do we reach out so that they feel they belong?

Belonging leads to Believing

Love of money and materialism – we don’t see any need for God.

Loving the lovable is easy.

Understanding the need to belong and the obstacles to this – perhaps through dialogue, we

can articulate the lost feeling of belonging. A lot of people leave straight after communion.

Look at projects which **draw us together** – a parish garden, with produce for the community, for our migrant families; a movie fundraiser etc.

Social ideas for belonging might include tramping clubs, belonging to Life Teen – although not many want to travel across town. Children are leaving Catholic Primary Schools and not always going on to Catholic Secondary Schools – why? And how does the parish continue to connect with them?

Listen to the teens, find a common purpose, like the Soup Kitchen, have them initiate, use their gifts.

Help each other, reach out, make sure to smile, seek opportunities to be welcoming.

We are a diverse multicultural community and the Multicultural Mass is an opportunity to receive, and to reach out to someone in need, or someone who has left the church.

Always look for opportunities to **show** solidarity, and create belonging.

Talk about mercy, forgiveness.

Offer to pick up older people for Mass will make them feel they still are wanted and belong.

Make a point of going to morning tea after Mass and talking to different people, especially new faces.

School plays such an important part in the community, connecting school and parish families. Many parents of children are seen as disconnected from our Parish community. Research why this happens! Mass times may be a factor. Mass is not seen as a priority. Communication is the key. And involve school children more in outreach. Parishioners could volunteer to share their faith at school, or support teachers who don’t have an experience of faith. Volunteers could tutor the youth – use the gifts of the parishioners.

Invite, no strings attached!

Look at ways of coming together – book clubs, rosary groups held in homes, family groups, Passionist Family groups, young people’s groups, with energetic people ready to lead.

If we prioritise rituals over belonging people won’t feel like part of the community.

**Who are the poor and marginalised in our local area?**

How do we define the poor? How do we notice them? There is not as much demand at the food bank. Funding has improved for beneficiaries.

Are they those with drug addiction, the abused, divorced people, mental health patients, the invisible who don’t ask for help?

We identify these people by communicating on a personal level, by noticing people.

The poor in spirit, the vulnerable, unwell, alone, spiritually malnourished, the shut-ins, no living relatives, never touched, live alone, families with mental illness, with disabilities.

In the western suburbs it is difficult to find foster families for vulnerable children.

People grieving. We need to reach out to them. How do we care for all our parishioners?

Can we get youth involved in liturgy? Virtual Mass? through the website, Facebook, Instagram?

How can we identify those with no money for a bus, no money for school costs?

Perhaps we could offer childcare, foodbank items?

**How can we as a parish community become more aware of our relationship with the whole of creation?**

What is creation?

Valuing all living things linked to human welfare.

Respect the environment, get out in it, and explore, and don’t be wasteful.

Reactivate the community garden – good project for the school, for teens.

Use what we use in the parish sustainably. Recycle.

**Leadership Team Evening Discernment**

*Reflecting on feedback from the parish conversations earlier in the day, how might you incorporate their wisdom into your plans for the parish and a stewardship way of life?*

Draft Goal 1:

To build community and a sense of belonging by:

1. Growing connections between 18-35 year olds.
2. Establishing personal connections between 12-18 year olds and their parish

1a. We will provide opportunities for young people (singles) to gather for food and

conversation.

We will provide opportunities to connect with young parents by embracing Side By Side Mentoring and setting a play group

1b. We will engage someone with skills in this area – eg a youth worker, to lead this process.

Other goals – by theme

Communal Projects

Pastoral Projects around Caring

Youth and Family