

Better Together Goals
St. Thomas More Newman Center
Columbia, MO

The following are the primary goals raised up by the small groups that were able to meet:

Week 1 - Christian Steward:

1. Make resident small groups a top ministerial priority of the parish (small groups among our college students are already a priority for the parish). This would promote faith, bonding to the parish, and unity between resident and student parishioners, allowing people to be formed and fed through small groups – second only to the Mass.
2. More opportunities or more emphasis on the opportunities that already exist for parishioners to learn how to pray, and greater availability of Adoration and the sacraments (particularly Confession) are a clear desire.
3. Systems setup to promote healthy “revolving” of leadership for parish groups to promote ownership in the parish and the sharing of gifts/talents.

Week 2 - Co-Responsibility:

1. It can be hard to understand the line or duties between laity and clergy. The laity need direction in order to be free to lead. Laity need more formation in their responsibility as the primary evangelizers (e.g., in bringing/referring people to the parish for RCIA, spiritual direction, the Sacraments (including when someone is sick, to tell the priests so they can bring Anointing of the Sick), small groups, catechetical opportunities (whether at the parish, elsewhere, or online). Active parish council and finance council are important here.
2. There is a great desire among the laity to be formed in the fullness of the Catholic faith, and a desire for more educational opportunities, in the parish, but even more so diocesan-wide.
3. There is a desire to become more familiar with the spirituality of hospitality both for newcomers (so we can more readily welcome and accompany them), and for parishioners to be more understanding of *communal* worship, e.g., respecting the rights of others to be present without disdain (including children, but also the disabled).

Week 3 - Center of Charity:

1. Create a ministry for hands-on help for our own parishioners, e.g. snow shoveling, raking leaves, I.T. help (setup an IPAD to livestream Mass), handyman help, etc.
2. Improve communication with what the parish already does, and promote ways to get involved that are simple and not too taxing.

Week 4 - Center of Mercy:

1. Greater responsibility to seek or refer others to appropriate ministers for spiritual healing
2. Intentional outreach to “fallen away” Catholics.
3. Intentional outreach to the grieving, the lonely/isolated