

Life in the Parish

“More lay opportunities in the US”... the desire for deeper development as the People of God.

Action Steps

Invite a priest at least once a year to celebrate liturgies and/or the Sacrament of Reconciliation with the Malayalam and Burmese communities in their own language

Organize international activities to promote community and increase relations between Asian and non-Asian parishioners

Provide workshops for pastoral leaders that promote understanding and respect of the elements of Asian spirituality and prayer

Increase opportunities for faith formation and leadership development among Asian young people

Foster greater involvement in liturgical ministries by Asian parishioners and occasionally include Asian languages at liturgies and prayer services

Provide bilingual translation of responses for the Mass in parishes shared with Asian Catholic communities

Establish formal channels of communication between parish pastoral leaders and Asian community leaders

Evaluate ministries and committees within individual Asian Catholic communities in collaboration with diocesan offices

Involvement in the Local Community

“Live in harmony with people around me”... a common desire of all Asian community members to be at peace with and helpful to everyone, “regardless of culture and faith,” especially the poor and disadvantaged, including recent immigrants.

Action Steps

Develop an online social network between Asian and Pacific Islander communities and organizations to improve dialogue and foster greater communion

Organize occasional opportunities for gathered prayer with Asian Catholic communities focused on social concerns locally and in their countries of origin

Develop evangelization programs that reach out to Asian youth, especially young adult males

Provide opportunities to learn about putting the Gospel into action through charitable works and social justice

Develop and distribute contact/resource lists for Asian international college students and the elderly to help address their needs

Develop ministries to visit the elderly, the sick, and the homebound within the Asian Catholic community

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Diocesan Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Asian and Pacific Islanders

Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester



Office for Cultural Diversity
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Diocesan Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Asian and Pacific Islanders

Mission Statement

We, the Asian Catholic Community of the Diocese of Rochester, are a community of communities united by our Catholic faith, Asian culture and traditional values. In the spirit of “Harmony in Faith,” we are called to:

- Embrace all God’s people as brothers and sisters in Christ
- Share the Good News and be a witness to others
- Live a profound spirituality rooted in prayer and tradition
- Honor our rich cultural heritage and share our gifts with the Church

Pastoral Priorities & Recommendations

The State of the Family

“Seeking a better life” ... the desire that moved Asian community members to immigrate in the first place and sustains them still.

Action Steps

Support households of faith among Asian families through community, worship and prayer

Promote sensitivity to culture and open dialogue during marriage preparation especially with interracial/interreligious couples

Integrate ethnic stories and cultural values to religious education curriculum

Provide special pastoral attention to refugee families and their particular needs

Develop adult faith formation opportunities which include intergenerational programs that are sensitive to language

Identify or develop family resources on the Liturgy and the Sacraments in order to encourage full and active participation at Mass as a family

Offer parent workshops to strengthen interpersonal relationships with the next generations

Create opportunities to honor the elders within the community

Encourage Asian and Pacific Islanders with family concerns to seek support from pastoral leadership

Life in the Asian Community

“Celebrating culture and heritage” ... the desire to keep alive the memories of the values and traditions from their countries of origin.

Action Steps

Offer opportunities for everyone to learn about the history and traditions of the various Asian and Pacific Islander communities in our Diocese

Strengthen relations and increase opportunities for partnership across the various Asian and Pacific Islander communities

Increase vocations within the Asian Catholic communities

Support life-long faith formation to encourage spiritual growth, maintain traditional values and increase knowledge of the Catholic faith, especially through small ecclesial communities that are connected to the wider parish experience

Establish support groups for families who have recently arrived and may be experiencing a language barrier

Encourage pastors to inform parishioners about events and/or activities sponsored by different Asian and Pacific Islander communities

Organize a diocesan gathering of all Asian Catholic communities at least once a year