

Congress X Plan of Action

Diocesan-Level Progress

SPRING 2009 SURVEY

The survey of progress on the Congress X Plan of Action included open-ended items where archdioceses and dioceses could describe their programs or activities. The appendices summarize those comments.

The descriptions of “Who’s Doing What, Where” are *not* intended to be comprehensive. Many dioceses didn’t give us details about their programs and projects. *We know there’s more going on than this report covers....and we’d love to hear about it so those activities too can be shared with the NBCC community.*

Dioceses differ greatly in demographics and in the episcopal support and the financial and human resources available to Offices of Black Ministry. We hope that by seeing “who’s doing what, where,” all dioceses can benefit from the experience of those that have had a chance to try out a certain approach or program. If an idea in this report sounds promising for your community, please contact that arch/diocese’s Black Catholic Ministry to learn from their experiences.

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APPENDIX 1: AFRICA

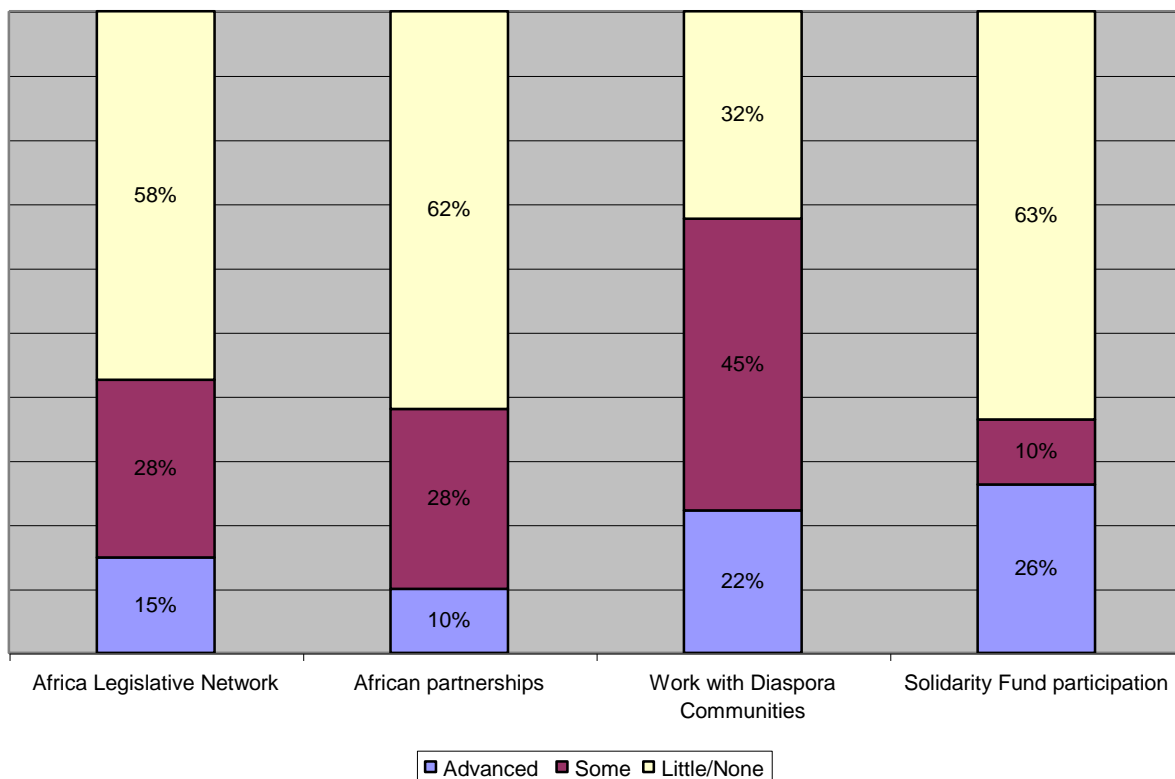
ACTION STEPS ASSESSED in the 2009 SURVEY

➤ 1.1 Joining a *legislative network* to advocate for ethical policies by our federal government towards the continent of Africa.

2.1 See HIV-AIDS section for progress on working with CRS Global Solidarity Partnerships. Graph below shows responses re. developing *partnerships* with Catholic organizations other than CRS, in order to develop twinning relationships with a parish, diocese, or apostolic organization in Africa.

3.1 Working with *local African Diaspora communities* to learn about, and then to support, community events that celebrate contributions from our brothers and sisters in Africa.

4.1 Every parish, diocesan Office of Black Catholic Ministry, or apostolic organization supports the annual collection for the *Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa*.



LEGISLATIVE NETWORK

➤ *Who's Doing What, Where?*

Bridgeport has been active in the Save Darfur campaign.

Louisville and *Cleveland* described their offices as active in this area.

St. Paul-Minneapolis reported that its loosely-linked coalition focusing on Africa had most recently been involved in advocacy about renewal of Temporary Protected Status for Liberians.

➤ **Trends and Issues:**

Some dioceses report relying on their diocesan social action (peace & justice, etc.) offices, which send out advocacy notices from the USCCB and state conferences.

A couple dioceses reported working closely with their state Catholic conference. (Editor's note: limiting advocacy to work with the state conference is unlikely to fulfill the goals of this Action Step, because state Catholic conferences seldom issue action alerts on international issues.)

PARTNERSHIPS IN AFRICA

➤ **Who's Doing What, Where?**

Cincinnati: Working in partnership with the Mission Office, has established relationship with Ghanaian Bishops who are sending priests to the Archdiocese for further study. Also has several parish twinning relationship.

Charleston: Diocese of Owerri in Nigeria

Cleveland: Worked with CRS in the development of a Water Project in the Diocese of Tanzania.

Denver: Team Africa: The Ties that Bind is a Catholic organization active in Denver and at Regis University, which has established long-lasting ties in Gulu, Uganda, including several trips to the continent. They have collected monies for schools and set up a Trauma Training for persons in Denver.

Detroit: St. Francis Children's Village in Meru, Kenya

Joliet: Partnering with Fr. Emmanuel Katongole of Uganda, the Joliet parish has helped to build 4 wells.

Owensboro: In process of developing twinning relationship with Sisters of the Lamb of God.

St. Louis: The Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis and nine parishes (Most Holy Trinity, Our Lady of the Holy Cross, St. Alphonsus Liquori "Rock", St. Augustine, St. Elizabeth- Mother of John the Baptist, St. Matthew the Apostle, St. Nicholas,

Saints Teresa and Bridget, and Visitation/St. Ann's Shrine) were the leading participants, along with grade schools, business offices, various Protestant churches, and Eagle Wings Ministries, in a used shoe collection drive that generated 156,000 pairs of shoes. Three water-drilling rigs have been purchased and shipped to Kenya to provide clean drinking water. A similar drive is in progress for 2009.

Also happening in *St. Louis*: Invited seminarians from Trinidad, Nigeria, and Uganda to come and exchange insights about their homeland and to learn about the local community....Parishioners have made financial contributions specifically to help reduce the poverty conditions in Africa....Youth group conducted a collection drive and made a presentation to a school during a recent visit to Soweto. The purpose of the visit was to learn more about conflict resolution through peace and justice.

St. Paul/Minneapolis: Archdiocese's Center for Mission has an active connection with northern Kenya. Also have large and active partnership groups with Igboland in Nigeria, the Northwest Province of Cameroon, Liberia, Ghana, and some parish-diocese connections in Uganda.

SUPPORT FOR DIASPORA COMMUNITIES

➤ *Who's Doing What, Where?*

Boston: OBC promotes the celebration of the Mass observing the Feast of Charles Lwanga and his companions. This is an opportunity for many to come and be a part of not only a religious observance, but also to get a glimpse of Ugandan culture.

Bridgeport reports that it is "Very difficult to work through some of the perceived cultural differences on both parts."

Charlotte: Is working to encourage participation by diverse African immigrant communities in Black Catholic events and is inviting their contributions to share their own cultures. Immigrant communities involved include: Cameroonians, Senegalese, Nigerians, and Ghanaians.

Chicago:: Outside of the Haitian community, there are no structured African communities in the Archdiocese. Back in the 1990's there were two groups of Nigerians, but they have since disbanded. The Haitian Catholic Apostolate has worked with the Office of Black Catholics since 1990 and they are mutually supportive.

Cincinnati: 1) Began outreach to the diversity of African people through the Office of African American Catholic Ministry. 2) Hosted African Summit over the last two years. 3) Holds a "Celebrating the Gifts of Africa" Mass. 4) In process of

developing a Symposium /Workshop to addressing “The Problems and Differences of meeting the needs of Refugees and Immigrants.”

Cleveland: working with the Nigerian American Cultural Center to get people to their annual convention. Cardinal Francis Arinze is the Keynote Speaker.

Dallas: The Diocesan Black Catholic Network co-sponsors, with Catholic Charities Refugee Empowerment Services, an annual World Refugee Celebration. The second annual celebration was June 20, 2009. African refugees have a large bazaar with crafts and foods for sale. Choirs, African Dance troupes and storytellers bring special gifts to the day.

Detroit: Continual work with the Igbo Catholic Community in Detroit and also with the priests and others from various areas, including Cameroon.

Fresno: Working through local African American Museum.

Indianapolis : Has an African Catholic Ministry group that sponsors an African Mass once a quarter and often participates in other parish and diocesan events.

Kansas City/St. Joseph: Formed an Africa Rising Social Action Committee at the parish level that includes African & African American parishioners who gather monthly to plan and stage events; guest speakers; African food festivals; and African fashion shows.

Louisville: Sponsored a track at the Archdiocesan Day of Reflection that focused on “Naming, Claiming and Celebrating.” Sponsored a Pan-African Day that called for the collaboration of our Multicultural community to embrace the contributions of our Brothers and Sisters in Africa. Provided resources for bridging communities, so that they might adopt a school in one of the townships in Africa.

Omaha: St. Benedict the Moor Parish is welcoming native Africans to the parish community by sharing a common Religious Education (CCD) program, that provides instruction in the Catholic faith taught by a native African in the people's own language.

Palm Beach has a Nigerian woman on its Leadership Team (who “shares much about her country with us”) and an African priest, although only visiting, has made a great difference in the parish. The other African priests in the diocese are in white parishes and while invited to participate, have chosen not to get involved.

San Bernardino: Participates in the Nigerian community's Harvest festival and attend the Igbo Masses.

St. Louis: A Nigerian student selected the St. Charles Lwanga Center as her Supervised Ministry site to provide her with first-hand knowledge of working in an African American community. She participated in the June 3 celebration honoring the center's patron saint, Charles Lwanga, and will actively participate in the KUJENGA Conference in September.

Also in *St. Louis:* In 2002 Sr. Mary Kamara, CCW worked in the community for eight months to learn about the Lwanga Center's ministries, including KUJENGA, and Rohan Tulloch, S.J. (now in Toronto, Ontario) gained experience in the Center's Bridges Program to help prepare him for being ordained a Deacon in 2009.

St. Paul/Minneapolis: Has the nation's fourth largest African-immigrant population. We feature their community activities in our archdiocesan paper and promote active participation of African groups, especially two large choirs, in Cathedral and other parish special events.

Springfield MA: Focusing on assisting and including African refugees.

SOLIDARITY FUND FOR THE CHURCH IN AFRICA

➤ ***Who's Doing What, Where?***

Strong participation by parishes across the diocese is reported in: Dallas, Toledo, Owensboro, Charlotte, Bridgeport, Palm Beach, St. Louis, San Angelo, Baton Rouge, Springfield IL. Primarily African American parishes are taking up the collection in Chicago.

➤ ***Trends and Issues:***

Some dioceses reported they didn't even know about it (Kansas City-St. Joseph; San Bernardino; Austin) or that nothing has happened in their arch/diocese (Fresno; Indianapolis). Another said that the diocese has its own financial priorities and resists adding new collections (St. Paul-Minneapolis). Detroit mentioned that the Office for Black Catholics is under new management and trying to take up a collection for Africa at every event when the Black Catholic community gathers.

APPENDIX 2: FINDINGS FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The action steps for Catholic Education required coordination at the national level, so we used the survey to solicit data and to learn of best practices to share with the NBCC community.

How many predominantly Black schools operate in your diocese today?

| | Elementary | High Schools | Other |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------|----------|
| Chicago | 80 | 3 | |
| St. Louis | 40 | 10 | 6 |
| Detroit | 7 | 2 | |
| Cleveland, New Orleans | 5 | 3 | 1 (N.O.) |
| Los Angeles, Pittsburgh | 4 4 | 2 (LA) 0 (Pitt.) | |
| Birmingham, Indianapolis | 3 | 1 | |
| Rockville Ctr | 3 | 0 | |
| St. Paul/Minn. | 2 | 1 | |
| Charleston, Omaha, Richmond, St. Augustine | 2 | 0 | |
| Baton Rouge, Columbus, Lansing, Toledo, Springfield IL | 1 | 0 | |
| 20 of the responding dioceses* | 0 | 0 | |
| TOTAL | 169 | 26 | 7 |

* Allentown, Bridgeport, Grand Rapids, San Bernardino, Springfield MA noted that the Black population in their dioceses is too small and scattered to have a Catholic school that is predominantly Black.

How many have closed in the past two years (2007-present)?

- 23 Elementary and 0 High Schools have closed (in 12 of the arch/dioceses)

How many are in danger of closing?

- 22 schools in 10 of the arch/dioceses. Additionally: Without estimating the number of schools that could be affected, respondents from St. Louis and Boston also indicated expectations that matters under study will result in some closures.
- Cleveland and Toledo reported risk of losing students if state-funded voucher program is modified or eliminated.

What scholarship programs, awards, fundraising campaigns, or other positive developments in sustaining Black Catholic schools have happened in your diocese in the past two years?

- *Programs with substantial funds and history were reported in:*
 - Chicago (*Big Shoulders Inc sustains 93 Catholic schools*)
 - Bridgeport (*Cathedral Education Cluster sustains poorest schools; cluster is funded by assessments from all parishes*)
 - Omaha (*Black Student Catholic Scholarship Fund for high schools, since 1994*)

- Louisville (African American Catholic Leadership Banquet supported 150 scholarships over past 23 yrs)
 - Toledo (diocese holds annual fundraising banquet for central city schools)
 - Several other dioceses reported parish or OBM fundraising for small scholarship programs each year.
- ***New initiatives reported in:***
- St. Paul and Minneapolis: New organization, Friends of Catholic Urban Schools [FOCUS] just received \$1 million donation over 10 years
 - Indianapolis formed consortium of central city elementary schools and Archbishop started campaign to support them
 - Detroit: New policy for closed-Catholic-schools-that-turn-charter: Rental income on buildings is sent to nearby schools that avoided closure. Also, new Christo Rey school has opened.
 - Los Angeles: Donation has enabled hiring of fund developers at 3 schools.

APPENDIX 3: HIV-AIDS

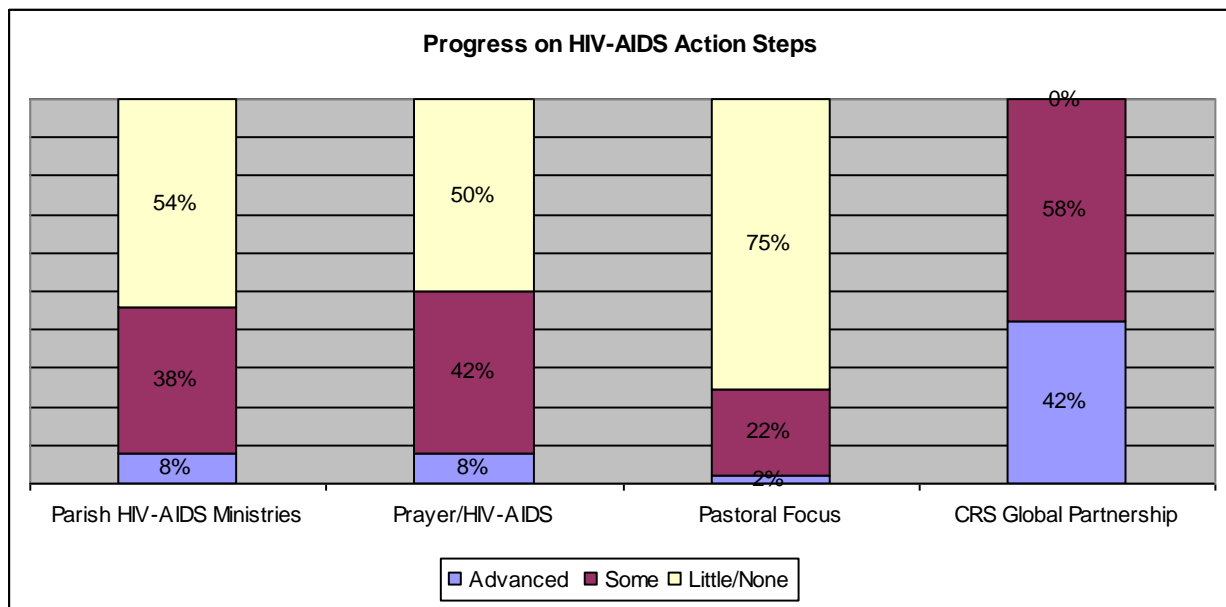
ACTION STEPS ASSESSED IN THE 2009 SURVEY

1.1 Creating an HIV-AIDS ministry in every parish in the diocese.

1.2 Promoting daily prayer by the Catholic faith community for those infected with HIV/AIDS and for their loved ones and caregivers.

1.3 Pastoral focus that includes home visits, transportation, and respite care or childcare, all provided in a very personal way, and focused on *listening* to needs articulated by people with HIV/AIDS and their families.

2.1 Work with Catholic Relief Services to learn about Global Solidarity Partnerships.



CREATING HIV-AIDS MINISTRIES IN EVERY PARISH

➤ *Who's Doing What, Where?*

Charlotte NC : All Black parishes have active HIV-AIDS ministries.

Joliet: One parish is working with a local ecumenical church group on a united HIV-AIDS effort.

Kansas City-St. Joseph is beginning health fairs at Black and Hispanic parishes, which will include HIV-AIDS screening and personal witnesses. They are working with a local university's Psychology Department and following a model for health fairs previously held at local Protestant churches.

Louisville: "Some of the parishes are more active than others. Very little activity in the rural community."

Richmond: “All the predominantly Black parishes have AIDS ministries. Our diocesan AIDS ministry is run by our Office of Justice and Peace as a respect life issue. If the OBC runs it then, there's even less participation because it feeds the perception that it's a "Black" disease and therefore does not affect other cultures.”

St. Louis: “Invited a facilitator team to present information to 100+ high school teens during the 2007 and 2008 KUJENGA Conference.”

St. Paul-Minneapolis: “We have had an active AIDS ministry at the Archdiocese since the mid-1980s. Its work has been spreading out to the parishes throughout that time. Our African-American communities do health fairs, which address, among many other issues, AIDS/HIV.”

PROMOTING DAILY PRAYER FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV-AIDS, THEIR CAREGIVERS & FAMILIES

➤ *Who's Doing What, Where?*

Bridgeport: Passing out a lot of literature and our literature racks are full of information. Mandated that it be mentioned in Homilies at Black Catholic Church.

Charlotte: Prayer vigils are held and we are constantly reminded to include our brothers and sisters who are suffering from HIV/AIDS in our prayers.

Dallas. And San Bernardino: Diocesan Black Catholic Network promotes World AIDS Day and sends our parishes HIV/AIDS prayer cards and resources

Kansas City: (KPCLA) Ladies Auxiliary of Knights of Peter Claver Court in KCKS dedicates the three Sunday to praying for those infected with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones and care takers.

PASTORAL FOCUS ON PERSONAL CARE AND LISTENING

Most dioceses reported struggling with this. *Denver* has a monthly support group and *Bridgeport* reports doing lots of hospital and home visits. Two dioceses that reported strong progress on this step are *St. Paul-Minneapolis* (“This has been going on for years here, and is relatively widespread and complete.”) and *Louisville* (“We have great partnerships with the community at-large with this.”)

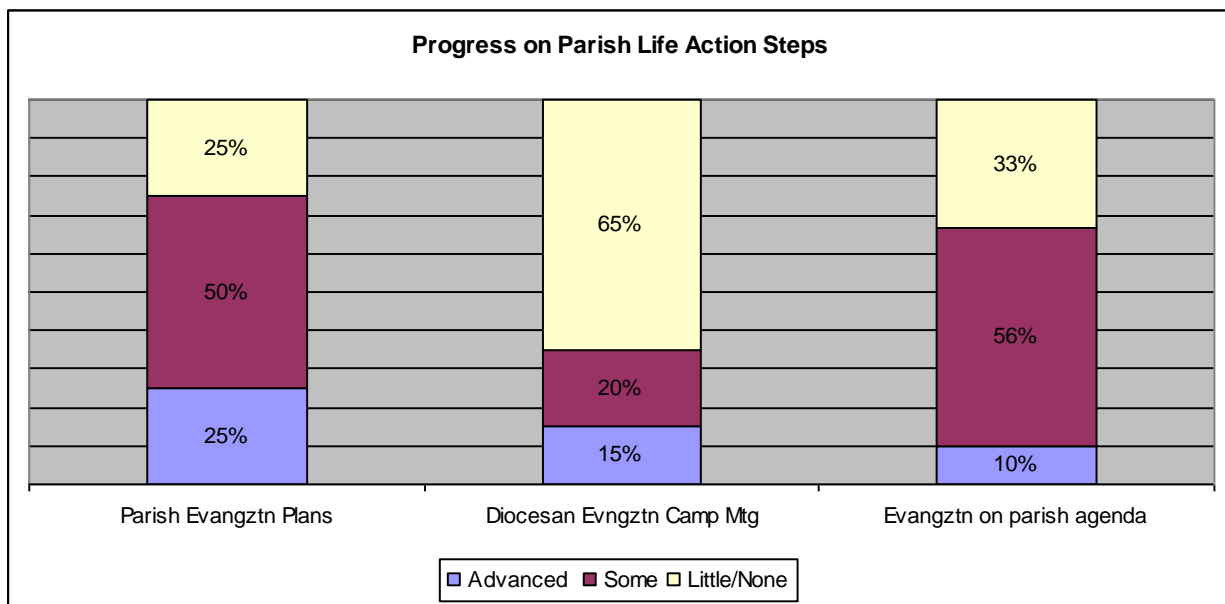
APPENDIX 4: PARISH LIFE

ACTION STEPS ASSESSED in the 2009 SURVEY

1.1 Provide educational forums to assist parishes in their understanding of evangelization, including leadership *training and guidance on creating an evangelization plan*.

1.2 Organize a diocesan Black Catholic “Evangelization Camp Meeting” that provides tools to assist local parish efforts.

1.3 Place *on the agenda* of Parish (or Pastoral) Council the question of how to structure the parish to promote evangelization.



TRAINING AND GUIDANCE IN CREATING EVANGELIZATION PLANS

➤ *Who's Doing What, Where?*

Chicago: For two years has had an evangelization intensive for black parishes.

Cleveland: Parishes have implemented Bible Study groups, worked with the evangelization office to look ways to get folks who are Catholic back to church (Return Home) Family and Friends weekend.

Fresno: Youth leadership training program.

Los Angeles: Has developed its own African American Ministry Certificate Program.

Louisville:

- All of the African American parishes have a ministry department for evangelization.
- Partners with five other states every other year to host a TIKO conference focusing on Leadership Development and Evangelization.
- Send 50 to 75 participants to every Interregional African American Catholic Evangelization Conference, which happens every two or three years.
- Other programs offered in Louisville are:
 - 2-year certificate program "Thea Bowman Institute " of Leadership Training for adults
 - 2-year Insight program for 7th-9th grade youth;
 - 4-day Kujenga Viongozi Leadership Process I, II & III for Youth, Young Adults and Adults;
 - 6-week Camp Africa Inspire Leadership Summer Program for 1st - 8th grade;
 - "Bridging"—an 8-week program for those new to parish ministry.

Omaha: Our local Implementation Team recently volunteered assistance and resources to St. Benedict the Moor Parish in contacting parishioners who no longer worship with us. We will attempt to bring them back into full participation in parish life.

Palm Beach: We do workshops, Days of Reflection and have an evangelization program called the Orita Mentoring Program.

Providence: For past two years has offered a series called "Spiritual Development, A personal Walk with God."

St. Louis: Lwanga Center's Coordinator for Evangelization has created and facilitated 4 annual workshops on the crossroads of personal spirituality and tips and techniques for evangelizing, He also developed and facilitated customized workshops on evangelizing techniques for parishioners in three individual parishes during 2008 and 2009. The Center will continue to make these resources available.

St. Paul-Minneapolis: Archdiocese is just wrapping up a 5-year, archdiocesan-wide evangelization initiative. OBCM beginning door-to-door outreaches, fall 2009, in two of the three predominantly African-American neighborhoods.

Toledo: Workshops with Therese Wilson-Favors, Adult Faith Formation, and leadership workshops from an Africentric perspective.

EVANGELIZATION CAMP

➤ Who's Doing What, Where?

Charlotte: Family Day of Reflection provides tools to assist parish evangelization efforts. A yearly Revival of the Spirit event has been a very successful evangelization tool, proved successful in bringing back fallen away Catholics as well as other Christians who had never visited a Catholic Church.

Chicago: Have done this for 2 years, under direction of Bishop Perry.

Los Angeles: Developed Regional Evangelization Task Force.

Louisville: Has one annually.

Richmond: A parish life/spirituality committee on the Black Catholic Commission helps the Office of Black Ministry to plan evangelization events

St. Louis: Deanery-wide 3-day Revival (2006), called "Ordering Our Steps on the Road of the Kingdom." Also, a North Deanery Revival Celebrating the Jubilee Year of St. Paul, the great Evangelizer" (in 2009) was well attended, with requests for repeat, which is in the works.

PUTTING EVANGELIZATION ON PARISH AGENDAS

➤ Who's Doing What, Where?

Oklahoma City: Door-to-door outreach weekly.

Omaha: OBM team "works closely" with parish to help reach out to non-participating parishioners. Hoping to establish permanent evangelization committee.

St. Louis: Two initiatives:

- 2009 KUJENGA Conference, "The Fire is Within Us," will use structured activities to motivate teens to spread the Word, utilize their spiritual gifts and invite others to do the same in their parishes, schools and community.
- Workshop or conference being planned for Spring 2010 to provide opportunities for participants of all ages to become more aware of how their spiritual gifts fit into God's plan for building his Church.

➤ Trends and Comments

One diocese reported no evangelization programs because the bishop denied their request for funding through the Black & Indian Mission Fund. One of the California dioceses reported that evangelization agendas tend to focus on the Latino population.

APPENDIX 5: RACISM

ACTION STEPS ASSESSED in the 2009 SURVEY

1.3 Hold *diversity workshops* for Church leaders, including clergy and consecrated religious.

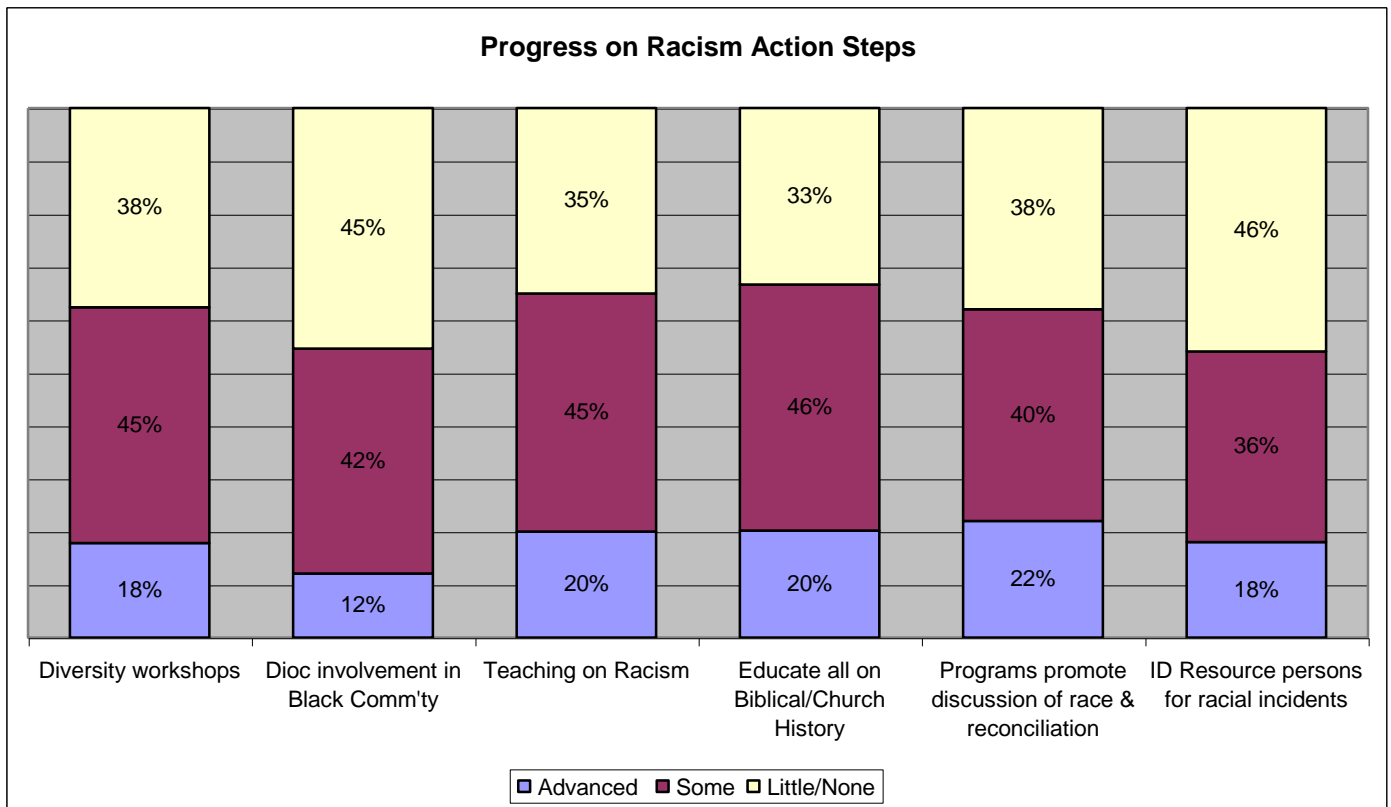
1.5 Promote *diocesan involvement in the Black Community* (e.g., conducting business with Black-owned businesses; advertising job openings in Black newspapers).

2.1 *Disseminate teaching* of the Holy See and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) on Racism, in ways that can be easily received by Catholics.

2.2 *Educate all Catholics* about the presence of peoples of African descent in the Bible and in the history of the Catholic Church.

2.3 Promote programs that successfully *facilitate discussion about racism* and about the need to promote reconciliation.

3.0 *Identify resource persons* (Black Catholics who are adequately trained in various academic disciplines, including theology) who are available to address any racial incidents that may occur and to provide viable solutions to overcome them.



DIVERSITY WORKSHOPS

➤ *Who's Doing What, Where?*

Dioceses reporting advanced progress on this step, including longstanding diversity education programs for pastoral and/or school leaders, are: *Austin, Charleston, Detroit, Lansing, Louisville, Omaha, Toledo.*

➤ *Comments and Experiences on Diversity Education:*

San Bernardino : Perceives little support or interest in the diocese in doing this. Past diversity workshops didn't seem to bear fruit.

Providence: Hasn't held diversity workshops but one-on-one discussions between Black Catholic leaders and key diocesan leaders have "yielded great successes" in terms of greater Black Catholic involvement in diocesan events and programs:

- The first African American Chaplain, Fr. Andrew McNair, L.C., for the Office of Black Catholic Ministry. Through Fr. McNair's efforts, the bishop invited Black youth to a luncheon at the seminary and Black youth applied to the seminary.
- Black Catholic youths became members of the diocesan Youth Leadership Team through the Comprehensive Youth Ministry Office.
- Black Catholic youth leaders were invited to join the planning and leadership team of the New England Catholic Youth Conference.
- For the first time, Black Catholic youth served as readers and servers at the bishop's Ash Wednesday Mass for all Rhode Island Catholic Schools held at the Cathedral.
- For the first time, an African American woman (Dr. Camille Brown) is as assistant superintendent of Catholic Schools. Another African American woman, Ms. Carlo Brito, is a member of the Diocesan Catholic School Board.

DIOCESAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY

➤ *Who's Doing What, Where?*

Detroit, Palm Beach, St. Louis, Toledo report routinely advertising events with local Black newspapers and radio stations. *Lansing, New Orleans, Charleston* also report advanced progress on this step. *Fresno* meets with community leaders and Black-owned businesses.

DISSEMINATE CHURCH TEACHING ON RACISM

➤ *Who's Doing What, Where?*

Austin, Bridgeport, Chicago, Detroit, Lansing, Louisville, St. Louis, and Toledo are (arch)dioceses reporting advanced progress on this step, using Black History month, diocesan and parish-level workshops, the OBM newsletter, church bulletins,

The Archdiocese of *Chicago* has an Office for Combating Racism, and *Cleveland* has a Diocesan Racism Committee that has presented workshops in every county in the diocese.

EDUCATE ALL CATHOLICS ABOUT AFRICANS IN CHURCH HISTORY

➤ *Who's Doing What, Where?*

Providence: For 9 years, the Office of Black Catholic Ministry has sponsored an Essay Contest in Catholic Schools in throughout Rhode Island. Each year the topics vary. OBM director visits each school that participates in the essay contest and uses that opportunity to talk to the school administrators, parents, and kids about the work of the Black Catholic Office and also about Black involvement in building the Catholic Church from the very beginning. Many people are most interested in topic of Black Saints. "We still get the question, 'Are there Black Catholics?' "

Louisville has a year-round African American Experience series.

St. Louis:

- Chaplain/Coordinator of Evangelization presented "Blacks in the Bible" in 2007.
- Celebrated National Black Catholic Month in 2008, using song, the spoken word and liturgical movement to present highlights of the lives and legacies of St. Martin de Porres, Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sable, Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, Mother Henriette Delille, Fr. Augustus Tolton, and St. Josephine Bakhita.

PROGRAMS THAT FACILITATE DISCUSSION ABOUT RACISM

➤ *Who's Doing What, Where?*

Austin: Reports substantial dialogue about racism has occurred in that community among African Americans and other major ethnic groups as well.

Omaha: St. Benedict the Moor and St. Pius X parishes hold regular dialogues to explore ways and means of enhancing mutual understanding and cooperation among our parishioners. We gather to pray, get to know one another, and encourage all participants to get in touch with their feelings about racism in Church and society. The program is working exceptionally well and we see great things happening in the future.

Indianapolis: Making strong progress on this step by working with the local federation of churches and the Sisters of Providence.

Louisville: has a 5-week parish-based program called “Moving Toward Oneness.”

IDENTIFY RESOURCE PERSONS

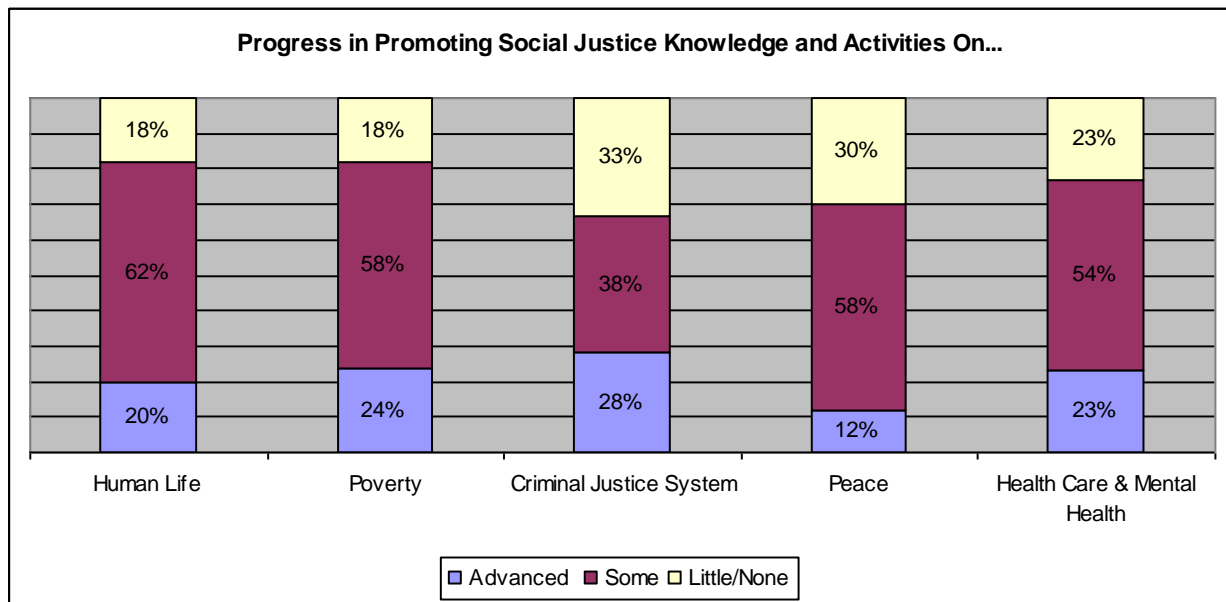
➤ *Who’s Doing What, Where?*

Charlotte, Chicago, Lansing, Palm Beach, Providence, Springfield IL, St. Louis, St. Paul-Minneapolis have assembled lists of contacts, often including both local and national resources. *Louisville* publishes its Resource Book.

APPENDIX 6: SOCIAL JUSTICE

ACTION STEPS ASSESSED in the 2009 SURVEY

1. Promoting activities to help Black Catholics become more knowledgeable of, and more actively engaged in social justice issues including:
 - A. The sacredness of human life
 - B. Economic poverty
 - C. Criminal justice system
 - D. Peace
 - E. Health care, including mental health



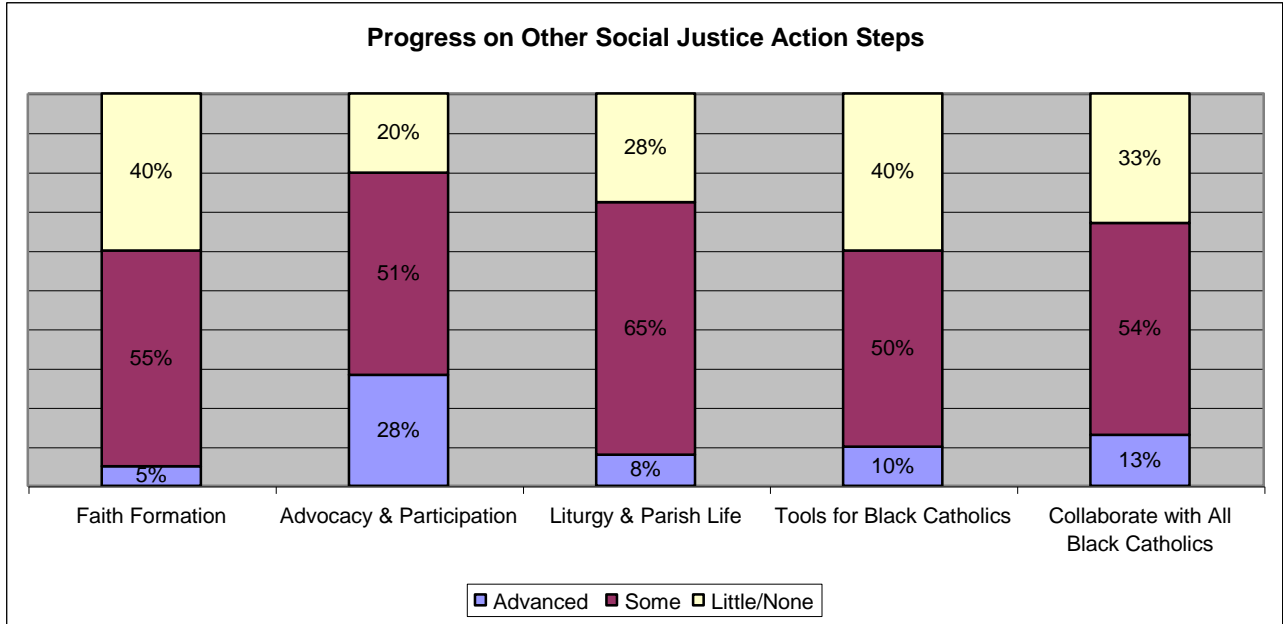
2. Modifying existing faith formation programs, as needed, to utilize the wisdom, insights and experiences of Black Catholics seeking social justice?

3.1 Black Catholics take part in advocacy and civic participation

3.2 Black Catholics incorporate social justice in liturgical celebrations and all facets of parish life

3.3 Diocese and parishes are creating communication and education tools for social justice ministry that are helpful to Black Catholics

3.4 African American Catholics are intentionally building strong relationships with other Catholics of African descent to advance social justice.



➤ **Who's Doing What, Where: On the Criminal Justice System?**

Detroit has new lay ministries that are looking at how to minister to those in the justice system and then how our parishes can care for people, when they return to our communities.

Cleveland has a weekly program at the county jail with juveniles who will be charged as adults.

➤ **Who's Doing What, Where: On Health?**

(Arch)Dioceses reporting active outreach via health fairs and screenings, include *Omaha* (at St. Benedict the Moor parish), *Springfield MA* (with a holistic health approach), and *Kansas City-St. Joseph*.

In *St. Louis*, a parish nurse program worked with a local medical center to co-host a six-week health education course focused on diabetes and the Ladies Council's Day of Reflection focused on maintaining healthy balance in one's life.

Detroit has been working to advocate for health care reform.

➤ **Who's Doing What, Where: On Pro-Life Issues?**

Charlotte, Detroit, and St. Louis described extensive pro-life outreach activities, esp. to youth.

BRINGING BLACK PERSPECTIVE TO SOCIAL TEACHING

➤ **Trends:**

Almost no dioceses reported “Advanced Progress” on this item.

➤ **Who’s Doing What, Where?**

St. Louis reports that its Black parishes routinely encourage the wisdom of Black Catholics, especially elders, to be brought to bear in faith formation programs.

Boston has provided parishes in the archdiocese with the names of African American Catholics who can speak to Religious Education classes on social justice issues.

Also taking place: *Fresno* has met with diocesan and local community officials on social justice issues. *Charleston’s* OBM is developing resources for raising pro-life children.

Omaha’s St. Benedict the Moor parish, and the archbishop of Omaha, are strongly involved in an intra-faith effort called Omaha Together —One Community, designed to support community involvement and social justice for minority groups within the community.

COLLABORATING ON SOCIAL JUSTICE WITH THE AFRICAN DIASPORA COMMUNITY

➤ **Who’s Doing What, Where?**

In November 2008 the Diocese of *Allentown* hosted the first Black Catholic Prayer Service and Social, which was open to all.

Charleston has an ongoing dialogue with African Priests in the diocese, and an outreach project to welcome African and Caribbean college students to the diocese and to Campus Ministry programs.

In *Omaha*, a Black Catholic Ministry team is trying to help St. Benedict the Moor Parish to establish closer ties with Africans in the community, particularly working to bridge cultural gaps with the Sudanese community.

Providence has established relationships with African diaspora communities to support them in working with social service agencies and programs.

St Louis reports “Seriously working towards to creating a forum for on-going dialogue between various ethnic groups.”

St. Paul and Minneapolis: The archdiocese’s Commission of Black Catholics has focused extensively on this goal.

San Bernardino works with the Nigerian community in that diocese.

APPENDIX 7: SPIRITUALITY

The Plan of Action calls for creating a “resource bank” of programs and material that have been successfully used to revitalize discipleship and evangelization in Black Catholic communities. Survey respondents reported the following programs or materials used successfully in their arch/dioceses:

DOCUMENTS

- Black Catholic Bishops, *What We Have Seen and Heard*
- NBCC, *Congress X Plan of Action*
- Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (On Evangelization in the Modern World)
- USCCB, *Embracing the Multicultural Face of God*
- USCCB, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*
- USCCB, *Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States*
- USCCB, *Welcoming the Stranger among Us*

BOOKS

- Carnes, Jim. *US and Them - A History of Intolerance in America* (Oxford U. Press, 1999)
- Felder, Cain Hope. *Troubling Biblical Waters: Race, Class, and Family* (Orbis, 1990)
- Houck, William, ed. *John Paul II and the New Evangelization: How You Can Bring the Good News to Others* (St. Ignatius Press, 1995)
- Lenahan, Phil. *7 Steps to Becoming Financially Free: A Catholic Guide to Managing Your Money* (Our Sunday Visitor, 2006)
- Williams Jr. CPPS, PhD, Clarence E. *Racial Sobriety* (Institute for Recovery from Racisms, 2007)

VIDEOS

- California Newsreel, *Race, The Power of an Illusion*
- Power Surge, *Racism, Hot Topics for Teens*
- Sr. Thea Bowman and Bede Abrams videos

VIDEO-BASED DISCUSSION COURSES

- *The Alpha Course* (used successfully in Archdiocese of St. Louis)
- *A Quick Journey Through the Bible* (used successfully in St. Louis)

EVENTS THAT ADVANCE EVANGELIZATION

- Annual Day of Reflection (Louisville)
- Black Catholic Prayer Service (Allentown)
- Evangelization Conference (New Orleans)
- Inter-regional African American Catholic Evangelization Conference (Louisville)
- Revivals (Charlotte; Cleveland; Joliet).

- *Diocese of Charlotte* recommends the following dynamic speakers: Sr. Patricia Healy, Fr. Tony Ricard, Fr. Jim Goode, Fr. Edward Branch, Fr. Norman Fischer, Sr. Anita Baird

PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS DEVELOPED IN DIOCESAN BCM OFFICES

- Abortion awareness (San Angelo TX)
- African American Ministry Certificate Program (Los Angeles)
- *Family Initiative*—a six-week program focusing on issues to enrich the community (Cleveland)
- Glad 2 Be In the Service (Cleveland)
- *Habari Gani* retreat (for Black Catholic youth; Archdiocese of New Orleans)
- *Keep On Teaching* workshops (developed by Archdiocese of Baltimore; used in Toledo)
- *Sankofa* African American Heritage Program for Kids (Charlotte)
- *Sankofa* African American Heritage Program for Teens (Charlotte)
- *Thea Bowman Program* (Louisville)
- *TIKO* (Tennessee, Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio—An intergenerational family convocation initiated by the Archdiocese of Louisville)
- Weekly evangelization radio show (involves BCM and 3 parishes in Pittsburgh)

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

- *African American Singles Ministry* (Cleveland)
- Allentown and Joliet also report developing successful methods
- *Family and Friends Weekend* (canvases the neighborhoods distributing parish mass schedule, encourage discussions, focus on faith formation) (Cleveland)
- *Regional Evangelization Task Forces*, designed to reach out to African Americans through all regions of archdioceses, especially where there are no Black parishes. (Los Angeles)
- Saint Paul and Minneapolis (“We would be willing to help teach our model”)
- *Sign Me Up!* (new door to door outreach in Detroit)

OTHER PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS THAT OBMS REPORT WERE SUCCESSFUL

- Christ Renews His Parish
- Each One Reach One Program (Louisville)
- Kujenga
- RENEW
- *Why Catholic?* (Renew International)

APPENDIX 8: YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

ACTION STEPS ASSESSED in the 2009 SURVEY

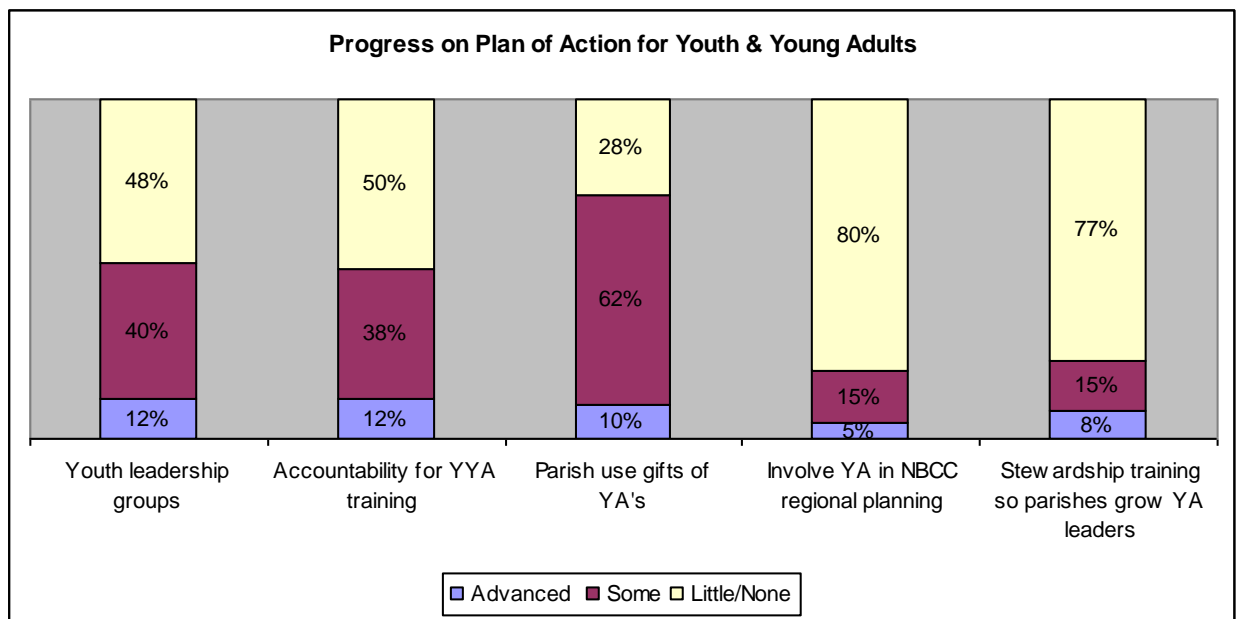
2.1 Promote Black Catholic youth leadership at parish levels by developing small reflection groups to establish retreats and programs in areas such as chastity and sports ministry.

2.2 Develop measures of accountability to review parish and diocesan Youth and Young Adult leadership training programs for Black Catholics.

4.1 Develop parish ministries that utilize the gifts, skills, talents and resources of young adults.

4.2 Develop liaisons and partnerships with NBCC regional coordinators in order to involve young adults in regional planning that will influence the parish planning.

4.3 Design stewardship-training workshops at the diocesan level to assist parishes in the development of Black young adult leaders.



PARISH LEVEL YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

➤ **Who's Doing What, Where?**

Birmingham uses Kujenga; a Cross retreat; and a basketball league.

Cleveland reports that Black Catholic Input continues to work with the Office on the formation of programs, activities that encourage youth to be active parishioners

Louisville has Regional Programs; Kujenga Viongozi; an Impact Retreat; J-Car; and Core Team

Palm Beach has made advanced progress with the Orita Mentoring program.

St. Louis finds that some of its parishes are very active and innovative on YYA development, thanks to on-going involvement of and encouragement from very proactive pastors.

➤ **Trends and Comments**

Dioceses with sparse African American populations tend to rely on diocesan Youth Ministry programs.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING ACCOUNTABILITY

➤ **Who's Doing What, Where?**

In *Dallas*, the Diocesan Black Catholic Network reports strong progress with a concerted outreach to Young Adults, in collaboration with the Diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adults.

St. Louis reports that “The Lwanga Center has been involved in coordinating the Annual KUJENGA Leadership Conference for approximately 18 years and as of 2001 accepted full responsibility for coordinating the conference for high school teens. Young adults volunteer each year as family leaders. Several are returning participants. We are very proud of our young adults that have grown up participating in our various programs and service projects, moved into the corporate arena, making great strides and still offer their time and talent to help move the mission of the Center forward. Some of the sponsoring parishes have very active youth councils as well.”

Cleveland develops an assessment tool for each YYA program.

PARISH MINISTRIES USE THE GIFTS OF YOUNG ADULTS

➤ *Trends and Comments*

A few parishes are reportedly doing very well at engaging young adults in everything from liturgical ministries to parish councils. Some dioceses work through local college campus ministries. One reported intentionally seeking age and gender diversity when choosing lectors for the Archdiocesan celebration of the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., including young adults chosen for two important speaking roles in recent years.

REGIONAL TRAINING

➤ *Trends and Comments*

In the past few years, budget considerations have greatly reduced the number of regional events and many of the NBCC's regions do not have an active regional director. So not surprisingly, of all the recommended action steps in the Congress X Plan of Action (which was developed by the Leadership Commission on Youth and Young Adults over the period 2005-07), this step has seen the least progress.

STEWARDSHIP TRAINING

➤ *Who's Doing What, Where?*

In the Diocese of *Cleveland*, the Diocesan Stewardship Office provides workshops and training for young adult leaders.

In *Charlotte*, train-the-trainer workshops are available for the program *7 steps to being Financially Free*.