Campus Ministry Year-End Report

2010 – 2011

Department Mission and Vision

Mission Statement
Guided by the Norbertine tradition of radical hospitality, Campus Ministry fosters the spiritual development of the St. Norbert College community by engaging people of all faith backgrounds in the process of becoming contemplatives in action.

Vision Statement
Campus Ministry envisions a college community in which all members develop tools for meaningful reflection, pursue mutual understanding through dialogue and learning and act with integrity and compassion.

Progress on Institutional Priorities

Priority One, Domain Two, Strategy One
• We were not successful in engaging Religious Studies on a collaborative formation program for RS majors and minors considering ministry. We hope to pursue in the coming year.

Priority Two, Domain Two, Strategy Three
• Massey and Welch co-lead breakout presentation at national conference of the Association of Student Affairs at Catholic Colleges and Universities.

Annual Goals and Measured Outcomes

Measures of Quality and Performance
• Both the CM and FLV plans reflect an interest in identifying or developing a clear articulation of the understanding of young adult spiritual development that grounds our ministry. This was on the Massey list and almost no progress was made. As a result, there was no progress on a staff development opportunity introducing the model more widely. This remains an interesting idea for the future, though may not bubble up as an urgent priority.

• Campus Ministry had a strong year for presenting at varied levels of gatherings – Johnson at a diocesan event, Massey and Murphy each co-presenting with others at national events. We were less successful in collaborating with colleagues in the Catholic Campus Ministry Association (CCMA) or Wisconsin Catholic Campus Ministry Association (WCCMA) networks. The timing and offerings of WCCMA rarely seem to meet our needs, but we remain aware of the fact that it might be best practices networking to engage that group in some manner.

• We piloted a new small group model with a mix of results – a couple groups happened and were well-evaluated by students, a couple initiatives morphed into
successful ongoing offerings outside the framework of “small groups” (they were either not small, or had open participation, or were intermittent,) and several that were offered did not happen due to lack of student interest.

- The Faith in Film series had consistent appeal, and offered a weekend social-with-depth opportunity that is an alternative to the party culture.
- The new student retreat was again successful, drawing in forty new students.
- Successful collaborations with Faith, Learning & Vocation to offer programs aimed at the senior class include: OMG! I’m a Senior in the fall (a new pilot in fall 2010, well-received,) and Senior Book Discussion for which Murphy served as one of the discussion leaders.
- Average participation in Evenings of Reflection slightly exceeded the target of twenty students.
- We piloted a successful retreat for faculty and staff in January 2011; 10 participants.
- We piloted a new overnight retreat exploring the concept of Contemplatives in Action. Nine student participants, two student leaders, positive evaluations.
- Campus Ministry continues its practice of tracking the gender breakdown for participation in events where participants are individually known. In 10-11, 28% of our participants in such programs were male students.
- This year we began an active dialogue with staff in the Center for International Education to explore the ways in which we can better support the faith lives of our international students. The dialogue continues, and two concrete steps are in motion: 1) Campus Ministry is underwriting the cost of the Chinese Student Association’s use of a campus van so that its members have a means of transportation to off-campus church services, and 2) Next fall Massey is partnering with Marcy O’Malley to offer a small group dialogue experience for Saudi Islamic students and U.S. Christian students to promote dialogue and deepen understanding.
- Our large-scale community-building contribution to campus continues to be a wonder. In fall 2010 over 700 attended!
- The TRIPS program sent out seventeen alternative break service trips in 2010-2011.
- TRIPS program deliberately enhanced the training required of reflection leaders for each trip in an effort to deepen the level of discussion that takes place across the trips.

**Measures of Student Learning**

- This year we piloted *Donum Ipsum*, an ongoing discussion group focusing on prayer and catechesis, and continued *Axia*, a weekend retreat exploring the meanings of Catholic sacramental life. Survey data from both experiences indicated participants gained a deeper understanding of the Catholic tradition and a deepening of their own beliefs.
- Survey data from the newly piloted Contemplatives in Action retreat indicates the retreat deepened participants’ commitment to integrate contemplation and action, and deepened their understanding of the place of prayer in the spiritual life.
• Student participants in the small groups that did take off indicated the groups helped them become aware of spiritual perspectives that differed from their own and helped them reflect on and evaluate their experiences.

• 60% of TRIPS Survey Monkey respondents indicated one or more ways in which their trip participation impacted their spirituality, religious views, or the role of religion in addressing social issues. Further, 82% of the TRIPS essays touched on central spiritual themes including openness to other religious perspectives, desire to grow in faith, or growth in one’s relationship with God. The essays of the remaining 18% of respondents touched on what we called broad spiritual themes such as appreciation for what one has, learning to look beyond stereotypes, and responsibility for the common good.

Initial Thoughts on Directions for Coming Year
• We continue to evaluate our model for small group experiences. Those that take off are consistently evaluated highly, but we continue to grapple with the model and or marketing that will best engage a wider spectrum of students.

• While Evenings of Reflection met their participation goal, we continue to evaluate the model and the best ways to engage students in a variety of retreat models.

• Continuing to give attention to the ways we can serve students of diverse religious backgrounds and help students of any religious background understand faith experiences that differ from their own, we are working on two new initiatives for the coming year – a Sacred Hour small group offering that will look at the call to contemplation and action in the Buddhist tradition and a Christian-Islamic student dialogue group that will explore the culture and religion of Islam.

• Begin to actively explore models for affiliates in ministry to offer clergy presence on campus from a wider array of traditions.

• We plan to send two or three staff and about four students to the National Catholic Collegiate Conference in November.

• Campus Ministry invested energy over the summer of 2011 into team-building activities and clarification of our common purpose. We approach the new year with renewed vigor and hope!

Appendices