

Members of the Saitama Diocesan Pastoral Evangelization Committee

July 11, 2010
Saitama Diocese
Bishop Tani Daiji

Inquiry from the Bishop

At the Priests Convention in 1999, a Vision Statement for Saitama Diocese, “Living the Gospel together with all people, especially those who have been marginalized,” was formulated. This Vision Statement lists Eight Priority Issues for Saitama Diocese, (see attached document for the Vision Statement and details about the Eight Priority Issues).

Over the past ten years, Saitama Diocese has been dealing with these priority issues. Now the time has come to reflect on these priority issues and conduct a review of them.

The work of reflection and review will be conducted using the following process.

1. At the Pastoral Ministers Convention in June 2010, (priests, deacons, religious and lay missionaries) will reflect on and review the priority issues. The Pastoral Ministers Council will summarize the results of these meetings and will make a report.
2. The Pastoral Evangelization Committee (laity) and the laity of the various Language Group Committees will also conduct meetings to reflect on and review the priority issues, (July 2010-January 2011).
3. The reports from 1 and 2 will be amalgamated by the Pastoral Ministers Council who will then formulate a final version of the “Priority Issues of Saitama Diocese” (tentative name). This report will be given to the Bishop in June 2011 at the time of the Pastoral Ministers Convention.

The new members of the Pastoral Evangelization Committee, and the laity of the various Language Group Committees, are asked to report on the following three items of inquiry.

- A. Has the laity known about and understood the Vision Statement and the priority issues?
- B. Evaluate the level of achievement and awareness of the various priority issues.
- C. Make proposals for renewing the priority issues (rearrangements, adding new issues, new perspectives etc.).

I ask that summarizing the results be conducted in the following matter.

- The members of the Pastoral Evangelization Committee will hold discussions at the various parishes and at Block Area meetings. These discussions will offer reference material for the individual Pastoral Evangelization Committee members to summarize their reports based upon their own ideas. Report should be about 1 page, A4. All the reports will be shared by the entire committee in January 2011 at a two day overnight meeting of the Pastoral Evangelization Committee.
- The staff of Open House will select 2-4 members from the laity to be on each of the various Language Group Committees. The selected members will meet in their respective language groups to have discussions and will then issue a report that is about 1 page, A4. The entire committee will discuss these reports in January 2011 at a two day overnight meeting of the Pastoral Evangelization Committee. Translation of this Inquiry for the various languages groups will be done in July and then be distributed by the staff of Open House.
- The results of the discussions held by the Pastoral Evangelization Committee will be summarized by the Steering Committee by the end of April and a report will be given to the Bishop.