

NORM 50

Norm Description: The Diocese is to establish ways and means to affirm cultural diversity in worship.

Department or Office with Primary Responsibility: Department of Worship and Liturgical Formation

Departments or Offices with Secondary Responsibility: Office of Multi-Cultural Ministries, Department of Pastoral Life

Person Submitting Plan: Very Rev. Robert Medley

Goal: Provide greater opportunity in liturgies, both at the parish and diocesan level, to incorporate and affirm cultural diversity in the worship experience. This goal is twofold:

1. Find ways to infuse the cultural richness of the various ethnicities into regular parish and diocesan liturgies.
2. Broaden the exposure and understanding of all the faithful across the Diocese to the different ethnicities present in the Diocese so that our parishes are more welcoming, inclusive and accepting of all people regardless of cultural or ethnic background.

Objectives:

1. Conduct a meeting(s) with a group of pastors and priests representing the different and predominant ethnic backgrounds found in the Diocese of Metuchen to generate input and ideas about the needs and opportunities to integrate cultural diversity in worship (Initial meeting held on January 6, 2009 with representation from Korean, Indian, Portuguese, Hispanic, Vietnamese and Filipino communities.)
2. Investigate how other neighboring dioceses are incorporating cultural diversity in their liturgies. Report back on findings by end of May, 2009.
3. Create a projected budget for 2011/2012 diocesan budget cycle.
4. Investigate policies, procedures, and teachings on how to properly celebrate the liturgy in a way that speaks to people of all cultures (by Fall 2011)
5. Develop guidelines for properly incorporating culture into the celebration of the liturgy (Spring 2012).
6. Develop resource materials to assist parishes in implementing these guidelines with their parish community (Fall 2012).