

Looking More Closely at MCiM



Yes, we want to look at this more closely

This is a big step but a great step. Across the Diocese parishes are talking about MCiM. There will come a moment when you want have a more focused discussion about the benefit and demands of embracing this vision and approach to ministry.

Many parishes are exploring MCiM because they want to be in mission and they want to grow. This sort of growth and development requires involves intentional work from clergy and laity over a number of years. We know that some simple but intentional actions create a climate for growth and bring positive change to a parish.

MCiM can be a growth strategy. Many of the growing churches, no matter which denomination of which they are a part, exhibit two key characteristics:

- They take their members' ministry in daily life seriously. Members know their gifts for mission and are exercising them.
- They know the needs of the people and communities around them and they are responding to those needs with loving service.

Church development specialists warn against complacency in parishes. They suggest that people will underestimate the challenges facing the church and their response will be insufficient.

As each parish looks to the future it needs to be open to may issues, such as:

- the changes in the community serves,
- the way people in the community participate in church life,
- the age profile of the current congregation
- the sources of income it uses to meet recurrent expenses.

Every parish needs a long term horizon in its thinking of at least five to ten years. In many settings, no change will mean slow death. MCiM represents a way of being Church in which builds strong healthy congregations.