



Family Wellness Ministry

A Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Dedicated to Families

Starting a Ministry (a few tips...)

**2017 Family Wellness Ministry
Leadership Conference**

**St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church
Irvine, California**

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Tips When Starting A Ministry

1. Identify Need
2. Appoint Leader
3. Create Plan
4. Garner Support
5. Deliver Quality
6. Communicate Results
7. Show Appreciation
8. Pray



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Tips When Starting A Ministry

1. Identify Need

- ❖ Why do this?
- ❖ Investigate: Gather inputs to define the need.
 - ❖ Surveys, interviews, observations
- ❖ Answer: What gap will the Ministry fill?
- ❖ Create: Draft directional Mission & Vision Statements.
- ❖ Clarify: The Benefits & Opportunities which lie ahead?
- ❖ Determine: Is it a Need or a Want? (“gotta” have or “nice” to have?)
- ❖ Prioritize: How does this Ministry “fit and coordinate” within the context of all Parish Ministry work?
 - People and Parishes all have finite time, talent and treasures to apply to Ministries.

2. Appoint Leader

- ❖ “Chicken or the Egg” question – which comes first, need or leader?
 - In many cases a parishioner will initially identify a need and move the ball forward; but after the need is reviewed, it may be apparent this person may not be the right leader going forward.
- ❖ Select the “right” Ministry Leader.
 - The wrong leader can set back the Ministry for years.
- ❖ Must be passionate about the cause.
- ❖ Credible Orthodox Christian within the Parish.
- ❖ “Champion of the Ministry” who takes responsibility to move it forward and who will advocate for it (repeatedly!)



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3. Create Plan

- ❖ Start with simple, few-page game plan to get Ministry grounded.
- ❖ Show the steps to take, dates & person(s) responsible.
- ❖ Plan is “owned” by Ministry Leader.
- ❖ Don’t over-plan; simple, direct plan is best at first.

4. Garner Support

- ❖ Ensure the Priest and Parish Council are in full support.
- ❖ Work with complimentary Ministries at the Parish level (i.e.: Family Wellness & Sunday School, GOYA, other Counselling programs, etc.).
- ❖ Its a process:
 - Build awareness through initial communications
 - Increase curiosity as programs near
 - Provide a positive experience to participants
 - Receive “buy-in” and support going forward
- ❖ Strive to have the Ministry included in the annual Parish budget.

5. Deliver Quality

- ❖ Build confidence in the Ministry by delivering good quality programs in “small bites” per your planned dates.
- ❖ Quality always surpasses quantity in the long-term.
- ❖ Always can add more programs later, especially if Ministry is known for its program quality.
- ❖ Tough to always show a FWM “success or failure” metric, but can show program progression, reviews and increased participation levels.
- ❖ Survey program participants (if applicable) to determine baseline for adjustments in the future.



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6. Communicate Results

- ❖ Consistently. Announce upcoming programs *and* report progress or outcomes.
- ❖ Don't let Ministry wane. Build awareness as you begin the new Ministry and then keep momentum up through active communication.
- ❖ Continue to build credibility and increase "followership":
 - Show and tell of impacts and progress
 - "We said" (what we'll do) - "We did" (delivered)
 - Use 1st person accounts, tell 3rd person stories & use statistics to demonstrate progress and increase credibility
 - "Met the plan and responded to unplanned requests or situations"

7. Show Appreciation

- ❖ Milestones should be celebrated.
- ❖ Most volunteers in a Christian-based Ministry are not looking for personal adulation. But, everyone likes a "thank you" now and then!
- ❖ Demonstrate a deep respect to the time, talent and resources your volunteers are bringing forward – it is their gift to God, His Church, the Ministry and, to an extent, directly to the Ministry Leader.
- ❖ Encourage others to join the work that the Holy Spirit is guiding within the Parish.
- ❖ Thank your volunteers, your Priest, your fellow Ministry Leaders, the Parish Council, participants, and supporters!

8. Pray

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." - 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18