



La Purisima Catholic Church

11712 North Hewes Street
Orange, California 92869
(714) 633-5800

December 4, 2003

Mr. Don Sando
President
Achievement Partners

Dear Don:

I want to thank you for the Management Workshop for Pastors you offered through the Diocese of Orange. The nine sessions we had between September and December presented a lot of important concepts in effective management.

I am the pastor of a parish with a small staff and over 2500 families. I have been in this position only one year and it was apparent to me that my natural talent for leading would not be enough to face the challenges my parish has brought me. Under previous administration this parish had a lot of unchecked growth, plus a six million dollar building campaign, but little organization and a too-small staff and volunteer corps to take care of everything. So human resources, decision-making, job descriptions, and time management have been big concerns of mine.

The information in the binder, the CDs, and the stimulating classroom discussions were very helpful in figuring out what I needed to do first, and in making plans for the future. The forms in the binder have been most helpful in tracking my progress and keeping me on task. And having a plan to create job descriptions for evaluations has been a big relief. I have already experienced smarter working, and identified areas of growth I need to improve in myself. These are my long-term goals.

I would recommend this program to any priest, not just pastors, but those who may become pastors in the near future. Parochial Vicars could be of greater help in administration if pastors spent the time and money in their training. I hope that the more priests improve their administrative skills, even if we invest in full time business and parish managers, we will see great growth in our parishes and ultimately in our ability to serve the people who come to us.

Sincerely,

Rev. Christopher Heath
Pastor