

Turning Obstacles into Objectives

Meegan Wright

Executive Director
The Catholic Foundation
of the Diocese of St. Petersburg



1

Turning Obstacles into Objectives

Pre-Covid Motivators

- Conversion
- Habit
- Invitation by known person
- Need to give back/feel needed
- Love language = service
- Passion/Interest
- Required service hours
- Looks good/resume builder
- Duty/Responsibility/Guilt
- Meet new people
- Experience new things



2

Turning Obstacles into Objectives

Pre-Covid Motivators

- Conversion
- ~~Habit~~
- ~~Invitation by known person~~
- ~~Need to give back/feel needed~~
- Love language = service
- Passion/Interest
- ~~Required service hours~~
- ~~Looks good/resume builder~~
- ~~Duty/Responsibility/Guilt~~
- ~~Meet new people~~
- ~~Experience new things~~



3

Turning Obstacles into Objectives


Obstacle

- An **obstruction, barrier** or **hurdle**
- Difficulty or **problem that prevents us from achieving** something




4

Turning Obstacles into Objectives



The image shows a large, jagged iceberg floating in the ocean. Only the tip of the iceberg is visible above the water surface, while the rest is submerged. The sky is blue with some light clouds.



DIocese OF ST. PETERBURG
COURAGEOUSLY
Living the Gospel

5

Turning Obstacles into Objectives



The image shows the same iceberg as in slide 5, but with a clear reflection of the submerged part of the iceberg visible in the water below the surface. This visualizes the concept of turning an obstacle into an objective.




DIocese OF ST. PETERBURG
COURAGEOUSLY
Living the Gospel

6

Turning Obstacles into Objectives

Plan Building Exercise

- Work as parish leaders on each step of the exercise
- Agree as a group that parish growth is the GOAL



7

Turning Obstacles into Objectives

Plan Building Exercise




8

Turning Obstacles into Objectives

OBSTACLE → Closed Culture








9

Turning Obstacles into Objectives

OBSTACLE → Closed Culture

- Lack of openness in breaking past cliques
- No hospitality
- No personal invitation
- Doing the same things the same way and expect different results
- Don't ask

10


Turning Obstacles into Objectives

OBSTACLE → Closed Culture

OBJECTIVE #1
Foster an open culture in our ministries where our people feel welcomed, needed and wanted

OBJECTIVE #2
Offer hospitality to visitors, new and established parishioners

OBJECTIVE #3
Survey members about existing ministry, dream session for where they see needs



11


Turning Obstacles into Objectives

OBSTACLE → Closed Culture

OBJECTIVE #1
Foster an open culture in our ministries where our people feel welcomed, needed and wanted

STRATEGIES

1. Research & Resourcing
 - ✓ Network
 - ✓ Reach out
 - ✓ Learn



12

Turning Obstacles into Objectives


OBSTACLE → **Closed Culture**

OBJECTIVE #1

Foster an open culture in our ministries where our people feel welcomed, needed and wanted

STRATEGIES

1. Research & Resourcing
2. Discernment & training
 - ✓ Vision
 - ✓ Job descriptions
 - ✓ Train for “engagement to invitation to response”
 - ✓ Onboarding



13

Turning Obstacles into Objectives


OBSTACLE → **Closed Culture**

OBJECTIVE #1

Foster an open culture in our ministries where our people feel welcomed, needed and wanted

STRATEGIES

1. Research & Resourcing
2. Discernment & training
3. Leadership Commitment
 - ✓ Meetings for formation
 - ✓ Train leaders to “raise” successor
 - ✓ Evaluation



14

Turning Obstacles into Objectives

OBSTACLE → **Closed Culture**

OBJECTIVE #2
Offer hospitality to visitors, new and established parishioners

STRATEGIES

1. Create hospitality ministry
 - ✓ Signage
 - ✓ Welcome booth
 - ✓ Electronic sign in book
 - ✓ Special parking
 - ✓ Greeters
 - ✓ Shepherds
 - ✓ Outreach subcommittee



15


Turning Obstacles into Objectives

OBSTACLE → **Closed Culture**

→ **Change of priorities for our people**

→ **Vision/mission of the parish is blurry**

OTHERS?



16

