

PART II –

EVALUATING PROGRAMMING & FUTURE NEEDS

Existing Ministries in the Diocese

In analyzing the overall numbers and comparing these to existing numbers of migrant workers being served by Catholic outreach, we strove to understand the current effectiveness of Catholic outreach and to identify areas where growth of the ministry might be encouraged to meet the needs of un-served or underserved areas.

While early in the study we had assumed that all migrant workers were being reached in established areas of ministry, a comparison of potential numbers in relation to actual numbers of workers attending Hispanic mass or impacted by other outreach shows that we are still reaching only a minority of the workers who are technically our parishioners. At the outset, we appreciate that the low attendance at mass by workers is probably no different a phenomenon than with resident Canadian parishioners. Still, Migrant Workers Ministry, by its very nature, presents an important opportunity to evangelize not only workers, but their employers and local volunteers.

Chart #7 -Existing Outreach Services

Essex Deanery

Outreach Site	Outreach Personnel	No. of Workers Served	Types of Programs
St. Michael's, Leamington	Fr. Pat Fuerth Fr. Joel Montano Local Volunteer Committee	200-400 weekly 1000+ special events	- Spanish Mass - Alcoholics Anonymous - Festivals - Worker information fairs - ESL - Safety training - Emergency food and clothing
St. Jean de Brebeuf, Kingsville	Local Volunteer Committee Fr. Joel Montano	35 weekly	- Spanish Mass - Social Gatherings - Assistance with bicycles, household goods, etc.
Holy Family Retreat House Oxley	Fr. Joel Montano Retreat House Staff (assist with other support)	25 weekly	- Spanish Mass - Social event after mass - Pastoral care
Pelee Island	Fr. Joel Montano	25 bi-weekly	- Spanish Mass - Pastoral care

Ingersoll Deanery

Deanery Wide/ LaSalette	Fr. Frank Murphy	50-200 weekly 500 at Peak Season 800 as Special Events	- Spanish Mass - Festivals - Bussing
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Kent Deanery

Capuchin Outreach Blenheim	Fr. Greg Mulligan	20-25 weekly	- Spanish Mass - Rides to Spanish Mass
Bothwell Outreach		8-15 Bi-weekly	- Monthly Spanish Mass - Prayer Sessions - Rides to English Mass

Huron-Perth Deanery

Exeter	Fr. Joel Montano	Monthly	- Spanish Mass - Pastoral Care
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Lambton Deanery

No outreach at present time			
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London Deanery

No outreach at present time			
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Community Partnerships

In addition to parish outreach sites, workers are served through a variety of community partnerships, particularly in Essex and Kent Deaneries. Thai Outreach provides ESL and other education to Thai and other S.E. Asian workers. The Filipino Cultural Committee of Chatham-Kent provides social outreach at St. Michael's, Leamington. The CK Committee for Migrant Workers (Chatham-Kent Cultural Coalition) provides community service agency links in Kent Deanery. The Migrant Workers Cultural Coalition works in cooperation with St. Michael's Church on a number of social and informational initiatives. Frontier College works cooperatively with St. Michael's Church to provide Spanish language volunteers.

In Summary

TOTAL NUMBERS CURRENTLY SERVED - between 500 to 1,000 (average weekly) to 2,000 workers (counting additional programs and major events) . This chart does not reflect local work done in conjunction with community partnerships, and work of the Specialist with Diocesan, provincial and national groups.

A Closer Look at Our Main Focus Area:

Kent Deanery

Of our three focus deaneries Kent was found to have the most migrant workers ranking as the third highest area of concentration after Ingersoll and Essex Deaneries.

The total number of migrant workers registered to both SAWP and Low Skills programs is 1199. However, only 261, or 21.77%, of these migrant workers are from traditionally Catholic countries. These workers are spread across the Deanery with pockets of migrant workers located at a variety of communities in north, south and central Kent. Migrant workers are associated with a variety of types of farm operations with tobacco as the second highest employer of migrant workers. Kent is the largest area of production for Black Tobacco, and its association's headquarters are located in Kent. The type of tobacco in Kent employs traditional "smoke barns" which cannot be automated in the same way as Flue Cure Tobacco.

Chatham-Kent had traditionally not been a focus for migrant worker outreach because migrant workers in this area have been overwhelmingly non-Catholic in the past. Crops produced in Kent Deanery have also been ones that have traditionally been seasonal, and migrant workers have only been needed for the months of May, June, July, August and September. Also there have been a large number of Caribbean workers employed by processing plants at Dresden, Pain Court and in south Kent. As one of the pioneering areas of SAWP, Caribbean workers were introduced early on in this region and along with Old Colony German Speaking Mennonite workers from Mexico have been the traditional workforce, particularly in processing cucumbers, tomatoes and peppers, as well as Black Tobacco.

Numbers of migrating Mennonite people are down because of the changing citizenship regulations that impact this group, and because of changing factors in their home country of Mexico. According to Helen Quick of the Mennonite Central Committee's offices in Chatham, this once large seasonal migration has slowed to a trickle in recent years.

Jamaican workers in particular remain a major segment of Kent Deanery's workforce. In 2010, there were 731 Jamaican workers in the Kent Deanery. This translates to 60.96% of all migrant workers.

A focal point of the agricultural economy in Chatham-Kent is black tobacco. The black tobacco growers association claims that of the approximately 2200 acres of black tobacco being grown and cured in Canada. Of that amount, about 95% is grown and cured in Chatham-Kent (particularly in the Blenheim area). This industry has traditionally relied on Jamaican labour with only 3 out of 19 employers choosing to use Mexican employees.

Introduction of a greenhouse economy in Kent has begun to change this trend. Greenhouse (and mushroom) operations have begun to experiment with S.E. Asian (mainly Thai) and Hispanic workers. There has also been a significant increase in the use of migrant workers in Chatham-Kent. Over the past three years the numbers of employers using SAWP has stayed relatively the same. However, the number of employers using 'low skills' has jumped from 4 to 15. The number of workers associated with this program has ballooned along with it from 22 to 131.

It should also be noted that workers from national groups (Jamaican and Mexican) that have traditionally been found only in the SAWP program are now beginning to be found in the Low Skills program.

Chart #8—Traditional SAWP workers now found in the “Low Skills” Program

	2010		2009		2008	
	Jamaica	Mexico	Jamaica	Mexico	Jamaica	Mexico
Kent	84	0	53	1	0	1
Essex	136	5	41	3	80	1
Huron-Perth	0	4	0	0	0	0
London	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ingersoll	41	0	1	0	1	0

Migrant workers from countries that have traditionally used the SAW Program exclusively, are now found in the Low Skills program. While this trend is still small it is growing, particularly in Kent, Essex and Ingersoll. This is significant because employers are not choosing the ‘low skills’ program for the sake of connecting with workers from new countries such as Thailand or the Philippines but are specifically rejecting the SAW program.

2: Lambton Deanery

Lambton County did not emerge as a major area of worker concentration. However, there were some important pockets of Catholic workers.

HDRSC (Service Canada) places the number of migrant workers in Lambton County in 2010 at 166 through both programs. 60.8% of these workers are from primarily Catholic countries. All are Mexican with the exception of two Filipinos working in the hog industry. The majority of these workers are found in northeast Lambton from Watford to Arkona. These workers have been contacted by local Evangelical groups that hold bible groups and other Protestant faiths who hold a one or two yearly events that include dinners, music and soccer games for the migrant workers. The employers we spoke to in Lambton were receptive to allowing outreach groups to contact their workers. Other faith groups, have made significant inroads in developing relationships with workers and employers interviewed also sometimes were impressed enough with the outreach to join in at these gatherings.

3. Northern Essex

The study found no migrant workers in northern Essex. There are several reasons why workers are concentrated in southern Essex. First, the soil quality in the north of the deanery is much better suited to cash crops such as corn, wheat and soybeans while that in the south is more suited to fresh fruits and vegetables. There are also no greenhouses or processing plants located in northern Essex. This may change in the future if a larger volume of gas and water lines are extended into more rural areas which allow for greenhouse development.