

Renewing the Church in Manville

Discernment Team Meeting January 23, 2012

Attendees: Msgr. Joe Celano (Episcopal Vicar of Somerset County), Fr. Stan Slaby, CSSR (Pastor of Christ the King and Sacred Heart parishes), Deacon Tom Giacobbe (Christ the King), Deacon Bill Stefany (Sacred Heart), Kathy Tartaglione (Christ the King), Stanley Jasinski (Sacred Heart), Dolores Finlan (Christ the King), Mark Peltack (Sacred Heart), Joseph Ketusky (Sacred Heart), Philip Strollo (Christ the King), Joseph Gazo (Sacred Heart), Peter Lachac (Christ the King), Jeff Korgen (Exec. Dir. Dept of Diocesan Planning), Kristen Silowka (Exec. Asst. Dept of Diocesan Planning)

Absent: Lucy Jaime (Sacred Heart), Angelo Corradino (Christ the King)

Introductions: Pair with someone from a different parish that you do not already know and discuss what you value most about your Parish. Then come back and introduce the person you paired with to the group.

Msgr. Celano Remarks: Msgr. Celano discussed the fact that our focus here needs to be on Jesus Christ. He stated, "Do not be afraid to go to the deeper waters of ourselves. You are men and women of God, built on faith and love of Church. We need to all remember that the Church is not the building we worship in, it is the community of the faithful bound by the love of Jesus Christ and each other. The flooding of Christ the King brought the need to discern a future for the Catholic community of Manville to the forefront. We need to be prepared for the next flood. We also need to take time to grieve because there will be loss here, and when there is loss there is grief. I am here as Vicar for the Bishop to give personal support to your pastor and to you. I ask 2 things of you during this process:

1. Please don't jump to the end of the process and try to figure out the outcome up front. Take the time to get there and listen with an open mind and open heart.
2. PRAY everyday – for this process, for each other and for your clergy."

Discussion: Jeff Korgen facilitated a discussion amongst the delegates about their experience of the relationship between the parishes and the need for reconciliation. Jeff reminded everyone that if at any point in the conversation anyone feels moved by the Holy Spirit and would like us to pray together, please do so.

The group decided that there is a need for the parishes to have a disaster plan in case a serious flood occurs before the discernment team has reached a conclusion. The group will revisit this issue next month.

Fr. Stan's Remarks: Fr. Stan clarified that the delegation here is for the Renewing the Church process only and does not replace the 2 Parish Pastoral Councils. The delegates should be bringing information gathered through this process back to their respective Pastoral and Finance councils for input. Please remember that we cannot go straight to the conclusion now. Fr. Stan stated, "We need to pray and I will ask everyone to pray for this process. We need to concentrate on building community and spirituality. We need to find a balance between privacy and transparency. I feel confident that this group of people can do this."

The next meeting will be Monday, February 26, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the CTK and SH parish office conference room.

Homework for next meeting: Think about the answer to these questions:

1. What would change the dynamic between the 2 parishes?
2. What can we as a group do to facilitate this change?