



Sacred Heart Church

98 South 2nd Avenue • P O Box 924 • Manville, NJ 08835
Phone: 908-725-0072 • Fax: 908-685-3029

Dear Parishioners,

After spending Thanksgiving Day with family and friends, giving thanks for our blessings, I would like to inform you about the outcome of the recent parishioner meetings held at both parishes by the Sacred Heart and Christ the King members of the Renewing the Church in Manville Discernment Team. The purpose of the meetings was to get input from the parishioners of both parishes on the two final proposals that were selected after significant analysis and dialogue throughout the entire Renewing the Church Process.

Here is a brief summary of the meeting:

The meeting opened with a prayer service and the presentation began with an overview of the nine-month renewal process. Next, the two final proposals were presented as follows:

Proposal 1: "Immediate Merger - Merge now to become a new parish with a new name and two worship sites, each church keeping its original name. If a flood closes Christ the King Church, Sacred Heart Church becomes its only worship site."

Proposal 2: "Immediate Merger with Feasibility Study for Close and Build - Merge now to become a new parish with a new name and two worship sites, each church keeping its original name. If a flood closes Christ the King Church, Sacred Heart Church becomes its only worship site. Subsequent to the merger, the new parish would commission a feasibility study on the subject of building a new church on a site to be determined, and if after due study and discernment, this is determined feasible, the parish would build a new church."

As you can see, both proposals recommend the immediate merger of the parishes. The only difference between the two proposals is that one recommends that a feasibility study be conducted to determine the viability of building a new church and closing the existing churches.

As the meeting continued, the advantages and disadvantages of each proposal that were identified by the committee were presented. The entire presentation can be found on each parish website.

Following a question and answer session and prayer to invoke the Holy Spirit, Parishioner Input Sheets were distributed to the attendees at both meetings with a request to identify the proposal that in their opinion will best serve the future of the catholic community of Manville.

Of the 42 attendees at the November 13 Sacred Heart meeting, 85% supported Proposal 1 with the remaining attendees supporting Proposal 2.

Of the 75 attendees at the November 15 Christ the King parishioner meeting, 22% supported Proposal 1; 22% supported Proposal 2; with the remainder supporting neither proposal, rather choosing to write "no merger" on the input sheet.

During the meeting, it was clearly stated, "While the committee is not bound by the will of majority, we need to take the sense of the parish into consideration."

Anyone who tells you in person or in writing that a vote was taken is misrepresenting the situation and should be ignored.

While all the parishioners input will be discussed at the next renewal meeting (Monday, November 26th 2012), the committee will move forward to further deliberate the two finalists presented, and after continued reflection and prayer they will likely select one of them as a final recommendation to the bishop.

As we celebrate the Year of Faith our eyes are turned towards God. Guided by the Holy Spirit, true renewing comes from within—it is a change of heart, mind and soul. Please remember that we seek a new structure for the Church in Manville that will spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the next generations. I ask for your continued prayers for peace and serenity within our catholic community. May the Immaculate Virgin, Mary, Star of the new Evangelization, with St. Joseph, and all the Saints intercede for us.

Father Stan Slaby CSsR