

Renewing the Church in Manville

Discernment Team Meeting May 21, 2012

Attendees: Fr. Slowomir Romanowski, C.Ss.R (Associate Pastor of CTK and SH), Msgr. Joe Celano (Episcopal Vicar of Somerset County), Deacon Tom Giacobbe (CTK), Deacon Bill Stefany (SH), Kathy Tartaglione (CTK), Stanley Jasinski (SH), Dolores Finlan (CTK), Joseph Ketusky (SH), Peter Lachac (CTK), Lucy Jaime (SH), Philip Strollo (CTK), Joseph Gazo (SH), Mark Peltack (SH,) Monica Demkovitz (Dir. Office of Properties and Facilities Management), Jeff Korgen (Exec. Dir. Dept of Diocesan Planning), Kristen Silowka (Exec. Asst. Dept of Diocesan Planning).

Reflection of the Scripture (John 17:11-19): In Msgr. Joe Celano's reflection of the scripture reading, he pointed out that we need to know who we are and, more importantly, whose we are. We belong to Jesus Christ. We need to keep faithful to our purpose and mission.

Response to invitation to provide written feedback: Jeff Korgen and Msgr. Celano developed a worksheet inviting parishioners to provide feedback on the Renewing the Church in Manville process. Fr. Stan gave the worksheets out to members of Christ the King parish that have expressed concerns about their parish. Within a couple of days the worksheets were all turned in blank. A delegate stated that the people in question are not as much concerned about what we are doing in the Renewing the Church process as they are about getting their buildings restored to the way they were before the flood. An email was sent to the Christ the King delegates the morning of the meeting. It was determined that the issues raised in the email fall under the responsibilities of the Parish Pastoral Council, not the Renewing the Church process. When Fr. Stan returns, he and Msgr. Celano will discuss how to proceed in responding to the inquiries. The proposal is that three people from the parish pastoral council meet with three people from the other group, moderated by Msgr. Celano.

Parish Facilities Reports: Monica Demkovitz reviewed the facilities reports for all of the properties owned by each parish in Manville. A written report was distributed to each delegate. The repairs to Christ the King church that the Bishop committed to in November with the Parish Pastoral Council: the boiler, heat and bathrooms, have all been completed. The boiler and heat were completed by Christmas. The bathrooms required drawings to be produced, township approval and then had to go out to bid. The work began in February and was completed mid-March. In addition to the bathrooms, the entire basement was painted and the stage was closed off at Fr. Stan's request. The kitchen was never to be restored. Questions were raised about the elevator and air conditioning. When the Insurance restoration crew came in they cut power and wires to the elevator and air conditioning systems. It took weeks to get the keys to the elevator, but it is working now. Mrs. Demkovitz advised the parish to call their air conditioning company for those repairs and the elevator company that the parish uses to have it inspected. Fr. Slawek and Deacon Tom stated that the air conditioning system has been fixed. Each member was asked to review the written report before the next meeting to see if further questions emerge.

Q & A with Monica Demkovitz

Q – Studies have been done about flooding affecting Christ the King, but has any study been done about flooding at Sacred Heart? It seemed that the most recent flood waters came close to Sacred Heart Parish.

A – No study has been done by the diocese. Sacred Heart has never been flooded. The government began a study of the entire town of Manville, but it was never completed because they ran out of money. It would take at least 10 years to finish. The Army Corp. of Engineers has recently revised the 100 year map. It may be worth while to get a copy.

Q – Would it be worthwhile to repair Christ the King rectory and rent it out, rather than demolish it?

A – It will cost at least \$400,000 to repair Christ the King rectory. Insurance will only pay \$134,695.23 toward the repair of the rectory, and it is still in the flood zone. From 1994-2010 there were 12 insurance claims at Christ the King totaling \$1, 094,000 and that is not including the latest flood. The Bishop has already made the decision to demolish the rectory, but that decision has been put on hold pending the outcome of the Renewing the Church in Manville process.

S – There is concern that recent construction in the area and the flood gates put up by Bound Brook may cause even more flooding then before.

Q – What level of damage would constitute the Bishop closing Christ the King church?

A – There is no definitive answer. The flood damage would need to include damage to a major item like the boiler, causing great expense to repair.

The next meeting will be Monday, June 25, 2012. We will meet at the parish offices at 7:30pm. We will review the finance reports with Tom Toolan. The Risk Audits will move to the August meeting.