

Renewing the Church in Manville

Discernment Team Meeting June 25, 2012

Attendees: Rev. Stanislaw Slaby, C.Ss.R (Pastor of CTK and SH), Deacon Bill Stefany (SH), Lucy Jaime (SH), Kathy Tartaglione (CTK), Stanley Jasinski (SH), Dolores Finlan (CTK), Joseph Ketusky (SH), Philip Strollo (CTK), Joseph Gazo (SH), Mark Peltack (SH), Angelo Corradino (CTK), Tom Toolan (Exec. Dir. Dept. of Administrative Services), Jeff Korgen (Exec. Dir. Dept of Diocesan Planning), Kristen Silowka (Exec. Asst. Dept of Diocesan Planning).

Reflection of the Scripture (JAMES 1:2-8): Fr. Stan's reflection centered on two words from the scripture reading. The first is "Wisdom". Wisdom not only comes with age, it also comes with experience and we need to learn from our experiences to gain wisdom. The second word Fr. Stan focused on was "Faith". Right now we are entering into the Year of Faith. Our faith gives us endurance. We must have endurance in our mission of Renewing the Church in Manville. As we enter into the Fortnight for Freedom, we must keep in mind that with freedom comes dignity and responsibility.

Parish Financial Reports: Tom Toolan reviewed the financial summaries for Christ the King and Sacred Heart parishes. He also handed out the detailed financial reports for FY06-07 through FY10-11.

Q & A with Tom Toolan

Q – Why are this year's numbers not included?

A – The fiscal year ends June 30, 2012. The final numbers for FY 2012 will not be available until August.

Q – Have you ever done forecasting?

A – No, there are too many variables that can affect the outcome.

Q – Is it possible to get a chart of Christ the King and Sacred Heart's revenues and expenses? It is much easier to understand with a visual display, not just numbers.

A – Tom will look into this. He will also look at what expenses would be lowered in the case of a merger.

Q – Sacred Heart has been supporting the school as well as Christ the King. How come it is not recorded in the subsidy?

A – Sacred Heart contributed to the repairs to the cafeteria and the roof over the gymnasium in the school in lieu of subsidy. Also, there has been a second collection at both churches for the school. Tom will provide a 5-year report on both the school and the cemetery prior to next meeting.

Q – In 2007, Fr. Sloan reported that Christ the King parish had approximately 2.5 million in cash and investments. Why does this report shows 1.7 million?

A – 1.7 is investments account only. This report does not include the cash and CD and the school.

Q – How much subsidy does the school get from the diocese?

A – All parish school subsidies go to the diocese and then are divided up on a per child basis. A number of factors are taken into account when determining the amount, including the current enrollment of the school. In addition, all parishes take a collection during Catholic Schools Week and that money goes to tuition assistance.

Q – Should the financial reports go on the web?

A – We will wait until all reports are reviewed by the delegation before deciding whether they will put on the web. In the mean time, if any delegates have a question, your Finance Council is a great resource for explanations.

Facilities Report: The delegation was looking for, in writing, what was fixed at Christ the King due to the latest flood and what the cost was. Monica Demkovitz will provide this information and Tom Toolan will present it at the next meeting.

Q – Why, at the last meeting, were engineering reports given for both the Sacred Heart and Christ the King rectories, but not given for the church basement?

A – An engineering study was not required to make the repairs to Christ the King basement because the Bishop made the decision to only restore the boiler, the heat and the bathrooms. The studies were done for the Sacred Heart Rectory only because there still needs to be work done to accommodate the priests' living quarters. (CTK Rectory was not taken into account since it was schedule for demolition, which is now on hold (see below)

Clarification on Bishop's Decision on Christ the King rectory: In the Fall of 2011 the Bishop made the decision to demolish the Christ the King rectory based on the fact that it is in a flood prone area (there have been 12 claims in less than 10 years) and the priests and parish offices have already been relocated to Sacred Heart. The decision to move to Sacred Heart rectory was made so that all priests and all offices would be out of the flood zone. The Bishop feels that as shepherd of all priests, he does not want his priests to be flood victims at the same time they are pastoring to the victims of the flood. Since then the Bishop has decided to put the demolition on hold pending the outcome of Renewing the Church in Manville. He is not reconsidering his decision. Msgr. Benwell clarified that the only way the Bishop would reconsider his decision is if the Pastor, in consultation with legitimately appointed consultative bodies came up with a proposal to bring to the College of Consultors. The College of Consultors would then make a recommendation to the Bishop whether they felt it was a prudent thing to do. The ultimate decision would then be the Bishop's.

Q – What is the College of Consultors?

A – The College of Consultors is a group of priests, all with financial backgrounds, that advise the Bishop on the prudence of spending over \$30,000. It is a "check and balance" consultative body for the diocese.

Q – Fr. Stan asked the delegation for their thoughts on the Christ the King rectory.

Responses:

- As a Christ the King parishioner I would not want to see my priests living in a flood zone. I would not live there.
- I would like to see the annex attached to the church be made into meeting rooms and bathroom facilities for the priests.
- We need to look at the big picture – are we going to remain separate or are we going to join together? If we are going to join together, why spend the money?
- I don't think the Renewing the Church delegation is the right group to make recommendations on the rectory.
- The rectory, because of its location, will always flood every time the river overflows. The Bishop has made the decision to demolish the rectory and I think it should be done sooner rather than later. If it is left standing, it is a tease to the parishioners. If it is taken down now people will really get behind the idea of "One Church of Manville". I think we should keep the annex up for meeting rooms. (note: the annex can not exist without the rectory. It was build later as a link between the church and rectory)

Fr. Stan's closing remarks on the rectory: We need to look at the bigger picture here. It is a reality that the water situation will return sooner or later. Wisdom says to look at all of the possibilities, but our mission here is to unite the Church of Manville. Will keeping the rectory open help us in the bigger picture?

The next meeting will be Monday, August 27, 2012 at the parish offices at 7:30pm. Tom Toolan will return to answer any additional questions regarding the finances of the parishes and to present an overview of the Risk Audits. Msgr. William Benwell will discuss the Canon Law governing the Renewing the Church process.