

Renewing the Church in Manville

Discernment Team Meeting March 26, 2012

Attendees: Fr. Stan Slaby, C.Ss.R (Pastor of CTK and SH), Deacon Bill Stefany (SH), Lucy Jaime (SH), Philip Strollo (CTK), Joseph Ketusky (SH), Dolores Finlan (CTK), Joseph Gazo (SH), Stanley Jasinski (SH), Kathy Tartaglione (CTK), Peter Lachac (CTK), Jeff Korgen (Exec. Dir. Dept of Diocesan Planning), Kristen Silowka (Exec. Asst. Dept of Diocesan Planning)

Review of Parish Ministries: Deacon Bill presented Sacred Heart ministries and Dolores presented Christ the King ministries (see notebook insert). It was noted that the following groups are already combined.

- Youth Group
- CCD
- RCIA
- Flood Committee
- Knights of Columbus (all of Manville)
- Video Reflections on the web
- Summer Camp (starting this year)

In addition, Christ the King School is supported by both parishes, the parish offices are located in the same building and the Priests and Deacons celebrate at both parishes on a rotating basis.

The following ministries currently exist only at Christ the King, but are looking to expand and incorporate members from Sacred Heart as well:

- Holy Name Society
- 60's Plus group

Discussion of "The Family You Have Gathered":

Q – Was there anything that caught your attention or that you thought was especially interesting as you read through the Bishop's letter?

Philip – *The Bishop mentioned that one of the challenges we face is that our parish is not the center of our lives, the soccer field is. We need to work on this.*

Deacon Bill – *The Bishop points out that our parish is a family too. The sentences that hit me most were on page 6, "There is nothing you could ever do that would make God love you less" and on page 7, "Everything we do teaches." We have to use these to get people back.*

Dolores – *I don't like the casualness of the reverence of the altar. People don't have the respect to bow to the altar anymore.*

Stanley – *I think priests are much more involved with parishioners now than they used to be. They are more open and inviting. Joe G. agreed*

Joe K. – *This [discernment] group would not have been here 30 years ago. The decision would have been made without people's involvement.*

Q – In the letter what affirmed or challenged your idea of parish life?

Kathy – *The number of activities and ministries is big, but the number of people attending meetings is low. We don't have anyone to bring in new members.*

Joe G. – *My wife was on a committee to call new parishioners to welcome them and invite them to join the various ministries, but she hasn't been asked to do that recently, even though I see new families in church.*

Lucy – *I go to church here every Sunday and am active on various committees and there are things on the list that I didn't even know about. We need to publicize these ministries more.*

Fr. Stan – *Sacred Heart has a welcoming package that they give out to all new families that register at Sacred Heart. It was developed by the Stewardship Committee in 2005. Christ the King has never developed one.*

Joe G. – *A lot of people have left the church over the years due to divorce and the feeling that "why should they come to church if they can't receive the Eucharist".*

Deacon Bill – *Looking at the list of ministries, I see a lot of opportunity to combine. Dolores agreed.*

Letter to the Bishop in the Courier News

Jeff handed out the front page article that appeared Sunday, March 18, 2012 in the Courier News. He also read aloud the letter posted today on MyCentralJersey.com regarding the Christ the King rectory. A question was raised whether or not to respond publically through the secular news paper. All agreed that a simple response clarifying the incorrect statements should be made.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 23, 2012. We will meet at Christ the King church at 6:30pm for a tour of the church and facilities, then move to Christ the King School and back at the parish offices for the meeting at 7:30pm.