

Meet the new Parish Pastoral Planning Council... aka “3PC” (photos follow story)

One of recommendations coming from the recent **Diocesan Synod** was that each Parish establish a 3PC! Membership would come from Trustees, Professional Staff, Finance and Parish Councils and the Parish at large. The number suggested was 12, we have 15: Co-Chairs: **Marilyn Moran and Cathy Romano, Tess Perry, Ursula Allen, Nancy Axthelm, Maureen Belford, Kathleen Fording, Connie Luppino, James Meehan, Michele Modugno, John Patterson, Nicole Mascera, Craig Wiele, Allan Shenoy and Fr. Tom.** The Council is charged with collecting all the data about the parish to give everyone a sound objective overview of all the dimensions of parish life. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of our faith community as well as share ideas and recommendations on how to increase what is pleasing to the Lord and his people and improve upon what needs more attention. The Synod has provided every 3PC with 5 challenges: (1) Liturgy/Worship, (2) Family Life, (3) Evangelization, (4) Leadership and (5) Catechesis/Education.

After initial study, discussion, reflection and prayer, our new 3PC will decide on one or two of challenges to focus on this year and come up with a 2 Yr. plan. Besides sharing known data that is already available, **Jim Meehan** on behalf of 3PC will facilitate three **Focus Groups** (from three age groups in the parish) to seek, listen and learn from them insights, suggestions, ideas on how the Parish can better provide service and become a more welcoming community of faith, as we all journey, through our individual and collective lives, toward the Lord. Though the Synod recommended the 3PC be established in November 2015, Assumption was ahead of schedule. Our 3PC was established this past summer! All Trustees, Finance and Council Members as well as Professional Staff were invited by bishop Frank to a **Fall Workshop** on **Catholic Leadership**, to educate all in attendance from around Fairfield County and prep those among them who would become 3PC members.

Last evening, the 3PC meet for the second time as pictured hereafter in the Rectory, **Fr. McCarthy Meeting Room**. Because of our number, next meeting will be in late February in Roncalli House **Oscar Romero Meeting Room**. Fr. Tom is very grateful to Cathy, Marilyn (Co-chairs) , Maureen (Sec.) and to all 3PC members for their willingness to serve on our new Council. Thanks to the recommendation of the 3PC and Jim Meehan’s help, Father will be calling 18 parishioners asking them to participate in one of 3 Focus Groups with Jim as facilitator. Fr. Tom will be there to welcome them and then leave them with Jim to grant them the space and privacy as they offer the 3PC their opinions/ideas/suggestions as well as positive critical feedback. With their input our new Parish Pastoral Planning Council, can better chart our future.

Please stay tuned for updates through the months and year(s) as we move forward, always with hope to fulfill our Diocesan Synod’s mandate(s) and as a parish family better serve the Lord with gladness.



