

St. Patrick Church

Moving Towards Healing and a Vibrant Catholic Community

November 27, 2005

To All Parishioners,

On November 14th about 250 parishioners gathered to begin the 1st Parish Listening Session.

The Key Themes for the small group discussions is provided.

In our 4th meeting, the Team of Elders developed 7 DRAFT Descriptors of a Vibrant and Viable Catholic Faith Community within two years for St. Patrick's for consideration by the parish.

Key Themes for November 14th Parish Listening Session

- A. We Support, Recognize, Appreciate and Support Fr. John Parr
- B. Awareness, Acknowledgment, Accountability and Apology from Bishop Fliss and Fr. Peter
- C. Individually and as a Parish, We Are Angry, Disappointed & Embarrassed
- D. The Church Has Lessened Our Trust through Its Blindness and/or Incompetence
- E. The Diocesan Structures, Systems, Assumptions and Patterns Need to Be Assessed and and Changed to More Fully Live Out of Vatican II and the Teaching of the Church
- F. Our Children Need Support, Opportunity and Resources to Gain Understanding and Making Sense
- G. People are leaving the Parish and the Catholic Church and They Need Support, Opportunity and Resources to Gain Understanding and Making Sense
- H. St. Patrick's Needs to Re-Imagine Its Future and Move into it With its History, the Good, Bad and Ugly
- I. Parish Leadership is Critical to Our Health and Ability to Move Forward

Team of Elders Meeting #4; A Vision of Possibilities for:

- Vibrant and Welcoming Faith Community
- A Culture of Lifelong Catholic Formation grounded in Church Teaching
- All Parishioners actively Involved in Ministries
- Commitment to Parish Unity with Differences
- A Culture and Interaction of Respect and Civility
- Holding Ourselves and Our Leadership to Accountability
- Clear, Functional and Responsive Systems and Structures for Leadership and Accountability

As the process has moved forward, we are constantly reminded of, and deeply committed to the following points:

1. We are increasingly grateful for the people, faith and leadership of St. Patrick Church and St. Patrick School
2. We are trusting in our process of transition and change that is proving to be quite helpful and working well for us personally and collectively. This is true for others in the parish and school staff and we are hopeful for the parish as a whole in the near term.
3. We are clearly being guided by the Holy Spirit and grounded in our faith as we experience the movement towards a deeper level of unity and community without the past divisions and "camps".