

## Renewing the Church in Perth Amboy – Part 2

Deanery Council Meeting March 28, 2011

Invited Attendees: Bishop Paul Bootkoski, Msgr. William Benwell (Vicar General)

Deanery Council Representatives: Fr. John Gordon (Dean, Pastor – La Asunción and Our Lady of Hungary), Carlos Rodriguez (LAA), Danley Robinson (LAA), Consuelo Bosque (LAA), Betty Lochli (OLH), Kathy Lochli (OLH), Marge Polinkas (OLH), Fr. Walter Latkowski, C.Ss.R. (Pastor – St. Stephen and St. Mary), Ana Maria Zevallos (SS), Jacek Smieszek (SS), Doris Oberc (SS), Eleanor Bates (SM), Elvis Marmol (SM), Linda Vanoni (SM), Fr. Michael Krull (Pastor – Holy Spirit, Most Holy Rosary), Owen Ravine (HS), Mary Ann Suhay (HS), Mario Rapetti (HS), Larry White (MHR), Pauline White (MHR), Fr. Joshy Nirappel, C.M.F. (Pastor – Our Lady of Fatima), Elba Ceballo (OLF), Jose Diaz (OLF), Reinaldo Cruz (OLF), Fr. Eugene Fasuga, C.Ss.R. (Pastor – Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima), Armindo Janela (OLRF), Isabel Chita (OLRF), Carlos Crespo (OLRF), Fr. Walter Wiktorek (Pastor – Holy Trinity), Jason Zjawiony (HT), Manuel Nunez (HT), Victor Breton (HT), Member at large – Lucy Gall, Jeff Korgen (Exec. Dir. Dept of Diocesan Planning), Kristen Silowka (Exec. Asst. Dept of Diocesan Planning)

Prayer Service: Bishop Paul Bootkoski

Welcome: Very Reverend John Gordon

Bishop's Remarks: Bishop Paul began by saying we currently have Pastors pastoring multiple parishes, but no one Pastor pastors more than two churches. We have a continuing shortage of priests that is expected to get worse. We also don't have the money to sustain all of the buildings we have. In short, Holy Mother Church is sick and cannot maintain herself as is. We need to look for a cure, with the Spirit of God motivating us. We need to pray for and work for vocations. We need to put away our own wants and figure out how we can minister to everyone here while respecting all nationalities involved. At the end of this process he would like to have 4 parishes in strategic areas throughout the city. He wants no one to win, no one to lose. The Bishop thanked everyone for their love, support and concern for the people of Perth Amboy.

Mission Statement and Outline Review: Jeffry Korgen – Per discussion, the June meeting is changes from Monday, June 27 to Wednesday, June 29.

Questions and Answers:

- Fr. John Gordon handed out a list of questions he compiled after the informational meetings.
- Elba asked how do masses at the individual churches happen at Divine Mercy Parish in Carteret?  
*Jeff – the council and pastor met after the decision to merge to come up with mass schedules, CCD, etc...*
- Eleanor asked when will evangelization happen?  
*Bishop Paul – We are doing this so we can make evangelization easier. Once everything is in place, evangelization will take place by everyone here. I would like to thank all of you for being here and all of our priests here. They are all caring, hard working people. When we can eliminate the financial worries and broken buildings, our priests can concentrate more on spirituality.*  
*Msgr. Benwell – People will be more attracted to stronger parishes than to weaker parishes just limping along. In Carteret they felt they had weak and financially unstable parishes, so they decided to come together to form a stronger, more vibrant parish.*

Parishioner Maps: (Kristen Silowka) Kristen reviewed the information expressed in the map—that is, each dot represents a family attending from the parish denoted by the color.

- Jose noted that Our Lady of Hungary, La Asunción and Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima are right next to each other.

Signs of the Times: (Jeffry Korgen) Please see handouts from the meeting.

Next Steps: Please review the information on the Deanery Representative Contact list (tab 10 of your binder). If you have an email address, please provide it to Kristen Silowka – [ksilowka@diometuchen.org](mailto:ksilowka@diometuchen.org). There will be a Multiple Parish Pastoring and Merger Parish Summit on April 8 and 9 at Sacred Heart in Manville. If you are interested, see Kristen for registration.

Correction to Facilities Reports: In the St. Mary facilities report, there is a picture of the Most Holy Rosary Convent. It should be the Holy Trinity Convent.

***There will be a special meeting on Saturday, May 14, 2011 from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm to tour the facilities at Holy Trinity, St. Mary, Most Holy Rosary and Holy Spirit. Fr. John Gordon has arranged a bus to take us to the churches. We will board the bus at Holy Trinity, 315 Lawrie Street, Perth Amboy.***

***Our next regular meeting will be on Monday, May 23, 2011. We will meet at Our Lady of Hungary at 6:30 pm for a tour of the facilities and then move to Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima for a 7:00pm tour. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima. We will be joined by Monica Demkovitz, Director, Diocesan Office of Property and Facilities Management.***