

ReNew My Church Minutes  
Tuesday, March 14, 2017 @ 7:00pm (Parish Center)  
Parish Session #1 (Introductory Session)

Present: Fr. Steve Lanza, Fr. Dean Semmer, Sr. Kathy Brazda (companion role to the parish), Judy Pyke, Greg Grodecki, Sue Lehocky, Kathleen Clarke, Jessica Fleming, Patty Sanfilippo, Mary Flocco, Felicia O'Malley, Jim Campbell, Kevin Lynch, Katie Bramblett, Kerry Farley, Kristen Fink, Kathy Janega, Michael McNulty, Michelle Wasielewski, Kim Conte, Lisa Centner, Joe Roddy

Facilitator: Jon Matousek [jmatousek@gmail.com](mailto:jmatousek@gmail.com) Welcome: Opening Prayer – Father Steve

Our facilitator Jon is assigned to Sacred Heart from the Archdiocese to help us through this pilot program. Jon discussed Renew My Church, Discernment, Vitality and Vision with Sacred Heart being in the pilot program along with 4 other parishes on the North Shore. (Faith, Hope and Charity, St. Joseph, St. Francis, St. Philip the Apostle). Why do we need Renew My Church? What does mission vitality look like? How do we believe we are being called to be more vibrant and vital in our community as we look toward the future?

The pathway to this process will consist of:

1) **Group Meetings** will consist of six meetings to be held with the pastors and three representatives from each of the five parishes. Our three Sacred Heart Parish representatives who will be attending the grouping meetings with Fr. Steve are Mike McNulty, Mary Flocco and Niki Campbell. The meetings are scheduled from now until July.

2) **Parish Sessions** with all of the lay leadership (members of the two councils, the school board, religious education board, and anyone who wishes to attend). The schedule for the remaining parish sessions is as follows: Tuesday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. All meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held in the Parish Center.

The purpose of these meetings is to get feedback and comments and that information is then shared at the group meetings. The information that Fr. Steve and our three representatives receive at the group meetings is then shared at the parish sessions. Each parish session follows the group meeting. March 11<sup>th</sup> was the first group meeting followed by the introductory parish session tonight. The next group meeting will be held March 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-9:00pm at St. Francis.

How will ReNew My Church affect Sacred Heart School? Kristen Fink, Principal explained that at an earlier meeting the Archdiocesan leadership has concluded that school closure or consolidation will not be necessary for the North Shore grouping at this time and therefore will not be considered through the course of this pilot process.

Next discussion was the **7 Signs of Parish Vitality**:

1. We bring people to Christ: Evangelization
2. Lifelong Formation: Catechesis
3. We encounter Christ and receive nourishment through prayer and worship
4. We build bonds among each other to sustain our life in Christ: Communion
5. We transform the lives of others through service as Christ's missionary disciples
6. We respond to the call to holiness by journeying together with Christ
7. We take responsibility for administration and leadership of the parish as good stewards of the gifts Christ has entrusted to us: Spiritual Stewardship-Leadership-Administration

Each sign of vitality has benchmark suggestions and each participant was asked to give an assessment of how visible the signs are in our parish. (often visible, sometimes visible, and not often visible)

Please see the detailed list attached.

Next, a short film was presented and all were asked to mark down thoughts while watching.

How do we bring out Renewal? Why ReNew? examples given 27% decrease in mass attendance and 50% fewer marriages in the last 20 years. Comments from parishioners: There is a decline in active involvement in the church, fewer attendees, fewer priests.

What is our Path forward?

At the conclusion of all the group meetings and parish session meetings, a recommendation will be made to an Archdiocesan commission who will take those recommendations to the Cardinal. A decision will be made sometime in the fall.

**Reminder: Next meeting, Tuesday, May 2nd at 7:00pm in the Parish Center**

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Atsaves