

Pastoral Reflection
5th Sunday of Ordinary Time
February 6, 2022

OUTLINE OF THE ARCHDIOCESAN STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Last weekend, with a letter from Archbishop Rosanski, the two-year strategic planning program for the renewal and reconfiguration of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, entitled ALL THINGS NEW, was officially launched. Indeed, all things WILL be new and most of our parishes, schools and organizations will emerge from this planning changed from the way we know them now. This is serious business and we need to stay open and informed! Father Jack has asked me to be the Parish Point of Contact for St. Cronan's participation in this process, and that just means that I will coordinate our work, keep us on track, and keep you informed as things develop. The Parish Council has asked five parish members to serve as the designated leadership team to head up what happens at St. Cronan during this planning, and they have accepted this responsibility. They are Melanie Ernst, David Gaillardetz, Justin Lorenz, Teresa Sullivan and Andrew Viragh. We have the youngest and probably the most forward looking leadership team in the Archdiocese! We are very grateful! A key role of this leadership team will be to receive from the Archdiocese a profile of our parish from information that the Archdiocese has currently, update and enhance it, and return it for the work of the Catholic Leadership Institute which has been hired to facilitate this process involving among other things putting together models for each parish going forward based on all the data that comes in. The leadership team will receive guidelines for the hard and soft data required in the form of a workbook this May. They will be inviting your input into this work.

What will be the role of **each parish member** in our planning work?

- 1) Stay informed. There is a website for ALL THINGS NEW which will have weekly postings about the planning process so we can follow it as it moves forward. (allthingsnew.archstl.org)
- 2) Complete a 75 item anonymous survey (identified only by parish membership) during the month of March, 2022, either on line or on paper as you prefer. The collation will come back to us for help with preparing our profile and with all kinds of help on how we can use it to study our parish. This survey is our opportunity to say how we feel about things like our liturgy, our pastor, our parish community, the homilies we hear; to say what we believe, and to register the level of our participation in parish life. We normally show well on these things, and it will be important to have a strong representation with these surveys. We will get the collation back so we can use it to study our parish trends and needs.
- 3) In October and November of 2022, when the model for our parish future is at the proposal stage, the recommended plan will come back to us to see. Professional facilitators from the Catholic Leadership Institute will come to our parish to meet with us and listen to our insights, our concerns, and our suggestions. There will be two such meetings, and it will be very important for as many of us as possible to come to one or both of them so they can hear from us before decisions about our future are finalized.

The final reconfiguration will be announced by Archbishop Rosanski on May 28, 2023. (Pentecost) and implementation will begin about six months later, extending over the next three to five years. Let us pray for a spirit of openness, listening and creativity. The byline from the Catholic Leadership Institute Staff is, "Nothing is off the table for consideration." Father Chris Martin, the Archdiocesan Vicar for Planning, says that "The goal is to have a Catholic presence in every square mile of this Archdiocese."

Sister Chabanel Mathison, O.S.U. Parish Point of Contact Person for ALL THINGS NEW