

The Parish Assembly

Pastoral Council Bulletin Article 8/22/2021

Greetings to all Saint Veronica parishioners! In this segment of the Parish Bulletin, the **Parish Pastoral Council** would like to introduce a venue for your opinions to be heard about an assortment of topics regarding our Church.

What is the Parish Pastoral Council?

The Parish Pastoral Council serves as a way for the Church to gather several perspectives from members of the community about topics regarding the Parish. In this case, the Parish Pastoral Council is administering a community event with the purpose of defining an all-encompassing vision for our future as well as creating a unifying mission statement for our Church. This can only be done by garnering thoughts from as many members of the Parish as possible via a **Parish Assembly**.

The Parish Assembly is scheduled for October 12th at 6:30pm in the cafeteria.

The Parish Assembly will discuss:

- the future of our Parish,
- what parishioners would like to see more of,
- how we can grow and be forward looking with such important questions as:

If Jesus were here today, what words would he give us to direct our future?

What do I as a member expect of my parish?

The **Parish Assembly** on **October 12th** will culminate in the creation of a mission statement for Saint Veronica's.

Since Saint Veronica's establishment in 1962 by the Most Reverend George W Ahr of the Diocese of Trenton, our Parish has been united in a common destiny to bring the immaculate light of our Lord Jesus Christ to the dark and sinful world around us by acting as an embassy/house of God's heavenly kingdom on earth. The flame of the Holy Spirit is within our Church, but it shines, and dims based on the faith of its parishioners. Saint Veronica's Parish is steadfastly working to recover from years of spiritual decline. (Whether based on factors within the Church or the spiritually hostile world around us.) For the past, several years Mass attendance has been either stagnating or declining and we are still feeling the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic lock down.

Saint Veronica's changed greatly in its community and Church life in its short existence, it was only 6 decades ago when Fr Mitchell J. Cetkowski was appointed our first pastor. Nevertheless, we must continue to hold dearly our initial roots as a young and ambitious parish, continuing to march forward no matter the obstacles. We are now reaching a point where this current period of uncertainty in the future growth of our parish will end. The outcome of the Parish Assembly and the new Mission Statement for the Church will mark a new era, formed from a solid foundation, for our parish and flourishing community!

To RSVP for the event please contact the following:

Call: 732-363-4200 or Email: office@stveronica.com

More information of the event can be found via our fellow parishioners and current **members of the Parish Pastoral Council**: Sister Laurie-Marie Parisi, C.R., Pat Bigg, Mark Bongiovanni, Denise Daye, Chris Fenimore, Gail Kohan, Bob Morris, Marietta Racancoj, Phil Thompson.

Ex officio members: Fr. PJ Alindogan, Fr. John Chang

George W Ahr was the reigning Bishop of Trenton from 1950 to 1979 and oversaw a Catholic population increase of 300,000 to 800,000, more than a 2x population growth. Our Parish was established for that reason and by looking back at history we can see that magnificent victories in the name of God are not impossible and can happen again.

Today, we are presented with the same problem as he was, in a different form. To manage and facilitate a 2x parishioner growth. This would be the amount of people needed to return the Parish back to pre-covid levels.

