

**Church of the Assumption  
Long Range Planning Committee**

**Interim Report to the Assumption Parish**

**Report Date: June 24, 2006**

**Subject: Recommendations from three Parish fact finding meetings**

**Long Range Planning Committee Membership:**

Steve Allegretto, Jimmy Ryan, Margaret Mary Comerford, Dan Hogan, Jack Brady, Kathy Molner, Virginia DeGennaro, Father George, Father Bob, Tony Burke, Joe Miller, Gail Miller, Christine Ring, Cynthia Gallant, Richard Zdrowski, and Joan Wheeler.

**Long Range Planning Committee: Mission**

The Long Range Planning Committee will assist the Parish in the preparation of a five year strategic plan which will fully engage Assumption parishioners in an informed consultative process related to parish management and service to Assumption parishioners and to insure that Assumption Parish's role as a compassionate community leader is preserved in the context of our faith based traditions.

**Summary of Findings by Priority Area:**

The five major areas reviewed at the Parish meetings included the following:

1. Sacraments and Liturgy
2. Faith Formation
3. Parish Structure and Leadership
4. Community Relations
5. Facilities and Finance

As there are overlapping issues in these areas the following is a synopsis of the general type of comments received which Assumption Parishioners expressed.

1. There is a real appreciation for Children's liturgies. Assumption Church should consider increasing the number of Children's liturgies.
2. There is an interest in bringing Parishioners back to Mass to assist in maintaining a strong and vibrant community.
3. There is an interest in opportunities for adult education with Bible studies. We are pleased to report in this respect that the Generations of Faith program is being redesigned with emphasis on Adults and a Bible studies group will be formed in the Fall.
4. Religious education for children is a Parish priority. We are pleased to report that the CCD program will be reinstated this Fall based on your thoughtful comments.
5. Given the challenges presented by the declining availability of priests the role of the Parish Council will be reexamined, along with other committees, to make sure we have the strongest possible team as well as an organization that is scaled to our abilities.
6. The highly successful Assumption Stewardship program will be continued. You will hear more about Stewardship opportunities this Fall.
7. Opportunities for social interaction, such as coffee after Mass, will be evaluated as a means to acquaint ourselves with one another, build a strong community, and meet new parish members and their families.
8. Information regarding parish financial management will be presented throughout the year to allow parishioners the opportunity to help the Assumption Church maintain its financial health. Parish "town meetings" will be held periodically throughout the year.
9. Capital projects which are considered necessary to protect our facilities investments, such as the refurbishing of the stained glass windows and school repointing will be carefully analyzed and information will be provided to the Parish to assist in priority setting.
10. A parish survey is under consideration using the Parish wide meeting attendees as a test group. The survey however will be open to any interested parishioner. A parish census is also envisioned. You will hear more about this in the fall.

We will begin to formulate goals and objectives for our plan for review with you this fall. This will be followed by the creation of implementation strategies which we will also present to the Parish later this year. Our work on the plan is expected to be complete in 2007 and we will keep you posted on the timetable once it is finalized.

The Long Range Planning Committee extends its thanks to all of the participants who have offered their important views in the Parish meeting process. There will be opportunities to respond to specific questions and recommendation made at the Parish town meetings which we plan on scheduling. Stay tuned!