

## **Pastor's page: More on Hospitality, the First Pillar of Our Parish Vision Statement**

***"St. Kilian parish strives to be a welcoming, dynamic faith community."***

Now that our Parish steering committee has completed its task of creating a mission statement and vision statement, the next step in pastoral planning is developing an Action Plan. Two brainstorming sessions, workshops run by Sr. Angela Gannon, CSJ, last spring 2016, consisting of representatives from the Pastoral Council, Stewardship Committee, Finance Committee, Family Life Committee, The Pastoral Team, and other ministry groups, produced an Action Plan to implement our five pillars of parish life.

The pillars are: 1. Hospitality, 2. Eucharist and liturgy, 3. lifelong Faith Formation, 4. Stewardship, and 5. Parish Social Ministry. For the next few weeks in my pastor's page, I will focus on each of these key components in our life as parishioners of St. Kilian. I will offer you a synthesis and summary of the brainstorming meetings we held on each of the pillars.

The action plan has three stated goals to improve Hospitality:

**Goal #1 - We will increase opportunities for hospitality and welcome at parish liturgies and events. We will do this through warm welcome as parishioners enter and exit the church for mass, in outreach to new parishioners, and invitational outreach to registered- but inactive Catholics.**

**A. We will recruit greeters for each Mass stationed at the four doors of our church. We will accomplish this within one year. The Pastoral Council and Liturgy Committee will lead this effort and collaborate with the ushers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, music ministers, altar servers, and deacons and priests, at each of the masses - to create an atmosphere that is invitational and joyful. Mass Teams will be organized for all the masses, with a special responsibility to foster that friendly atmosphere.**

**B. After mass refreshments will be offered monthly in order to build community, so that parishioners may mix and mingle, getting to know one another socially.**

**c. A hospitality tent will be purchased. It will be located on the property on the east side of the church, and used for after mass refreshments from Easter to October 1. We hope to accomplish this in time for next Easter 2017.**

**Goal #2 - We will continue Social Events to build community. The Kilian feast day, Kilian fest, St. Patrick's Day dinner dance, Backwards Raffle dinner dance, and an annual Parish Ministry Appreciation Party - will all be celebrated. A Social Events/Fun raising Committee will continue to organize these festivities.**

**Goal #3 - We will develop a program of welcoming new parishioners and reaching out invitationally to veteran parishioners. Within a year, through the stewardship of time and talent, we will call forth parishioners to form a Welcome Wagon Ministry. This ministry will have the responsibility of personally welcoming new families to our parish, by arranging home visits. During the friendly visit they will present material on our parish. The hand out literature will include the Parish Ministry Booklet with opportunities for involvement in parish ministry, the weekly bulletin and website information, religious education (faith formation) information, and more.**

**This Welcome Wagon Ministry will also have the responsibility of following up with the families of newly baptized children. This ministry will organize a friendly visit to the homes of children recently baptized. They will carry with them information on the Parish, and opportunities for parish ministry involvement.**

**The Welcome Wagon ministers will have the responsibility of getting to know Farmingdale area real estate brokers, and placing brochures about our parish in local real estate offices. New residents within our parish boundaries who are Catholic will be encouraged to register at St. Kilian.**

**To make our parish come alive with the love of Jesus Christ will be the responsibility of every parishioner. But if you have a special interest in participating in the work of hospitality in the Hospitality Committee, or in the Welcome Wagon Ministry that we hope to create, let me or the Director of Stewardship, Barbara Geary, know of your interest. *"Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of***

***your faithful!"***

***Peace, Father Bruce***