

SAINT EMERY'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

July 10, 2016

Update of Parish Council and Synod Activities

New Parish Council Member Installed

Kim Scinto Fisco was installed as a member of the Parish Council at the June 13, 2016 meeting. Kim will be responsible for St. Emery's Outreach Programs. We welcome Kim and look forward to her participation on the Council.

Synod Global Challenges

As a result of the recent Synod, challenges were identified as follows:

1. Liturgy and Worship: Every Catholic is called to full, conscious, and active participation in the worship life of the Church.
2. Family Life: There is a need to strengthen and support family life, and to empower and assist parents as the primary teachers of the Catholic Faith.
3. Evangelization: We must create concrete plans for evangelization through our parishes, schools, ecclesial movements, and communities.
4. Leadership: There is a need to continually call, form and support clergy, religious, and laity in active leadership roles in the life of the Church.
5. Catechesis and Education: We must renew the ministry of faith formation throughout our Diocese, leading each person to a deepening relationship with the Lord Jesus in and through His Church.

Snapshots (2009-2015) were provided to the parish regarding, but not limited to, baptisms, confirmations, mass attendance, religious education, annual bishop's appeal, etc. These were compared with national trends which shows a decline in all areas. We are now challenged, as disciples, to grow the church and strengthen our position in the Diocese.

"Building a Bridge to the Future"

A Task Force was formed to work on Bishop Frank Caggiano's "Building a Bridge to the Future" is a community of disciples, called from the parish council, finance council, trustees, and other lay members of the parish, to prayerfully evaluate the existing life of the parish, identify challenges, set priorities and craft a pastoral plan that will strengthen and sustain the mission and life of the parish. They will review and Global Challenges identified by the Synod.

A Parish Self Assessment and Planning Questionnaire was completed and submitted to the Diocese in the spring of 2016. The Task Force identified three goals from a list of eight which are:

Catechesis & Education/Family Life
Community Life
Leadership Development

As part of our endeavors to reach the objectives of these three goals, a survey will be sent out to you in July which will help us with the planning process. It is important to return those by the due date indicated on the survey.

We will keep you informed as we proceed through this challenge.

God Bless you, your families and God Bless St. Emery's Parish.

Parish Advisory Council and Planning Task Force

838 Kings Highway East, Fairfield, CT 06825-5418 * 203 334-0312 * Fax 203 579-9423

www.stemerys.com * ssemerstep@aol.com