

The committee for *Making All Things New* would like to thank those parishioners who attended the discussion sessions and those who completed the parish survey forms. Your input has been very helpful to us as we prepare our report to the archdiocese and as we strive to make St. Anthony's an even more vibrant parish. The purpose of this document is to:

1. Provide you, as promised, with an overview of the comments and suggestions that we received at the meetings and on the survey forms
2. Update you on the progress of the program to date and explain next steps
3. Make you aware of actions that are being taken here at St. Anthony's as a result of your input

The following is a summary of the parish response. Each of the 7 questions is listed and the top responses are stated along with other comments receiving multiple mentions.

What do you appreciate the most about your parish?

1. Diversified demographics, accommodating and welcoming spiritual environment, community
 2. Wonderful, pious, friendly priests
 3. Excellent Mass schedule
- music and choir, parish volunteers, daily Mass, friendliness of the people, a vibrant active parish with opportunities for all to be active

What are a few areas you hope to grow stronger?

1. Greater youth involvement
 2. Emphasis on family worship
 3. Involvement of the 21-49 age group
- engage fallen away Catholics, more senior activities

What are some ways our Liturgies and the sacramental life of our parish could be enhanced?

1. Bring back parish council
 2. Bring back family Mass (homily directed to children)
 3. More traditional hymns, greater participation of the people (need hymn boards)
- greater reverence for the presence of God before and during Mass, folk mass or upbeat music to appeal to younger people, welcome at doors by ushers, need for women ushers and youth greeters to assist the elderly and disabled, more retreats, modernize and update bulletins, homilies that emphasize what is important to today's Catholics and that are relative to everyday concerns

What opportunities do you see in our parish to increase the effectiveness of evangelization and life-long religious education?

1. Make greater use of social media
2. Retreats
3. Bible Study Groups (Day/Night)
 - Lent/Advent talks, Father/Child events, Inter-faith non-denominational activities and gatherings, more outreach programs, joining other parishes for high school religious education

What bold steps might we take to enhance our personal and our parish's stewardship of time, talent and treasure?

1. Create a list of parishioners and their talents
2. Make greater use of web site and social media
3. Reactivate parish council
 - having youth liturgists, providing a list of the parish's physical needs so people could volunteer their talents, when registering new parishioners ask them what organizations they would be interested in

What outreach challenges can we embrace to make a positive difference in our parish, our region, and ultimately the world?

1. More effective use of media
2. More outreach programs (poor, single, divorced, elderly, homebound etc.)
 - better information in the bulletin, an annual healing Mass (including mental illness), an outreach to other parishes to form a collaborative model

What are two or three hopes you have for the future of the Catholic community in Rockland County? How do you envision working with other parishes to realize your hopes?

1. Joint programs with other parishes including adoration and other religious activities such as pilgrimages etc.
2. More unity and cooperation, sharing resources
 - a centralized information center including Masses, confessions and events for all parishes in the county, a rotating *Day of Renewal* with other parishes, sharing a youth minister

The *Making All Things New* program has provided us with the opportunity not only to examine the current status of our parish, but to determine how we can best serve our future needs. One method is through collaboration with other parishes. Collaborative parishes seek to avoid unnecessary duplication of services and to fill in ministry gaps where needed services are not currently available. We are fortunate to be a strong parish and have been placed in a cluster with three other strong parishes. They are St. Paul's in Congers, St. Francis in West Nyack and St. Augustine in New City. We have been meeting with the core teams from these parishes to determine what opportunities may exist.

This is the first report of actions that are taking place here at St. Anthony's that address the suggestions and comments put forth at the meetings and on the survey forms.

1. *St. Anthony's Family Group* has been formed to involve and provide support for young families in our parish. The group has already had their initial meeting.

2. A new youth minister, Brian Dorrian, has been hired. He and Fr. Jerry have already met with Fr. Joseph A. Espaillat II (Director of the newly formed *Office of Youth Ministry*, Archdiocese of New York) and with the *Catholic Youth and Family Ministries Organization* in Garrison. Planning for activities is already underway.

3. A formal Parish Council will be formed. It will build on the efforts of the Parish Advisory Group who have done outstanding work in the past including our St. Anthony's Day celebration. It is our objective to have this parish council in place by the end of March.

4. A new parish web site is now up and running. It currently includes the latest parish bulletin, a copy of this report and other important information. We hope to continue to expand the site to make it the source of information for all activities here at St. Anthony's. Check it out at www.thechurchofstanthony.com.

Again we thank you for your support. We ask for your continued prayers for the success of *Making All Things New*. We will continue to update you on our future progress.

ST. ANTHONY'S *MAKING ALL THINGS NEW* CORE TEAM