

Listening Session for Strategic Visioning Team for the Diocese of Newark
St. John, Boonton – November 28, 2022

Name a treasure, asset or strength of this faith community.

- **Our People**
 - Working together
 - From different backgrounds
- **Our Parish provides a warm welcome**
 - ACCEPTANCE
 - I've found a home here
 - I can be who I am and pray the way I want to pray
 - All are welcome at God's Table
- **The Physical Beauty of the Church**
 - Encourages me to be prayerful and comfortable in the space
 - It's like a Currier & Ives picture
- **The beauty of the Liturgy and the music**
 - The sound of the organ
- **We are outward looking**
 - To serve the community
 - Then welcome the community in

What is a potential opportunity or challenge for you?

- **Getting Millenials & Gen Z to come to Church**
- **Needing Funds**
- **Taking Care of Aging Buildings**
 - Making more use of our building/an opportunity here
- **We have to get St. John's name out into the community**
 - We can't expect them to come to us
 - Have an open house and invite the community in
 - But how do we get them to come?
- **How to Continue our Ministries w/o burning People Out?**
 - Upgrade our sound system
- **How to Address Current Politics and Preaching?**
- **Collaborating with Other Churches**
 - Episcopal parishes
 - Other denominations as well
 - Doing this already and developing it further

- **Incorporating New People into our Parish Community**
 - Not only up to the priest

What is one thing that you are most concerned about?

- **Finances**
 - Pledging levels
 - Number of people to give pledges
- **Our Sustainability**
 - Particularly since COVID
- **Our Christian Message & Evangelism**

What issues or ministries energize you?

- **Choir/Singing**
- **Serving the Wider Community**
 - Saturday Luncheon Social
 - Has been on-going for 25 years
 - Cooperative with other groups
- **Working Together with Others as a Team**
 - All using our gifts and helping each other out.
 - This is a low threshold to participation
 - Fun town/civic events

What are some ways the Diocesan leadership supports your ministries?

- **Offered a Variety of Zoom Presentations**
- **Presentation on Living Room Conversations**
 - Very open; presence of Diocesan staff
- **Diocesan Website has Information for Specific Needs**
 - Grants, budgets – these have been helpful

What are other ways the Diocesan leadership could empower you to grow in ministry?

- **Help with Finances**
 - Money, materials, expertise
- **More Frequent Check-ins from Diocesan Staff**
 - Not because of an emergency
 - Having Strategic Visioning Team member come as a neutral party was very helpful
 - We have a fear of being vulnerable about our parish realities and yet want to be connected to the diocese.
 - Diocesan Staff to come and speak and interact with the parish

- **Support/Provide/Model Parish-to-Parish Ministry Projects**
 - Diocesan staff act as a liaison to parishes/projects; provide the 10K foot view
- **Develop and Maintain a Skills & Gifts Inventory**
 - To be shared across the diocese

In what ways is this congregation engaged in the ministry of the wider diocese?

- **We Participate in Diocesan Convention**
- **We go to Programs Offered by the Diocese**
- **We Support North Porch & Prison Ministry**
- **Our Priest is an Alternate to General Convention**

What is one ministry or issue that you dream we could do or work on together as a Diocese?

- **Would Like to See one Big Diocesan Ministry We Could All Participate In**
- **Constructive Activism**
 - Gun Violence
 - Women's Health & Rights
 - Senior Services
- **The Response to Anti-Semitism and the Church's Position**
 - Activism & Education
- **Black Lives Matters Further Engagement**