

Making All Things New Update

St. Augustine's Parish

February, 2014

Making All Things New: Mandate from the Archdiocese

- Cardinal Dolan initiated Making All Things New (MATN) in June, 2013, with the intent of examining the structure of the Archdiocese, making necessary change required to best fulfill the Church's mission. MATN seeks to provide maximum opportunity to all 368 parishes and all parishioners to reflect prayerfully on the mission of their parish and to participate in the planning for the future of their parish and of the Archdiocese. Over 1500 parishioners from all the parishes and over 300 priests will be meeting during the months January to May. Their specific recommendations will be given to the Cardinal in June.
- As part of Making All Things New, each Parish was asked to designate four individuals to serve as the parish's core committee, along with the Pastor. The first task was to complete a lengthy self-assessment, expressed in a detailed survey provided by the Archdiocese. The survey focused on four areas of Parish Life: the Sacramental Life of Parish, Evangelization, including catechesis and life long education, Stewardship and Outreach, and Administrative Effectiveness. Each Parish was given six weeks to complete the initial assessment. The assessment due on December 4, 2013, at the first meeting of the core committees of our "cluster" (the other parishes with which St. Augustine's was grouped).

Making All Things New: Phase One Initial Assessment

St. Augustine's Approach

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- Monsignor Kelly selected Gerry Beitel, Theresa Leghorn, Steve Piccone and Carla Porter and John Spollen to serve as the core committee for Making All Things New. Each has served St. Augustine's for many years in several capacities, including as members Parish and Finance Councils , Trustees, CYO Program Leader and as lay ministers.
- The All Things New Committee sought broad engagement in the Parish's self-assessment. Specifically:
 - Formed an advisory and out-reach group of forty parishioners from whom they sought input and counsel.
 - Held a Town Hall meeting on 11/17, where parishioners were asked to provide input.
 - Sought input via an on line and paper survey, derived from the Archdiocese's survey. (Minor modifications were made to the survey, with the intent to simplify and clarify the questions and content). The on-line survey was completed by 107 parishioners from 10/21-11/15 and paper questionnaires were completed by 22 parishioners.
- Surveys were analyzed and combined with input from Town Hall meeting and advisory group to guide Parish assessment.

Making All Things New: Phase One Initial Assessment

Key Learnings From Out-Reach, Town Hall and Survey

- Summary: Parishioners describe St. Augustine's as a vibrant parish, with a rich liturgical life, and a fantastic religious education program. Parishioners are seeking to become a more outwardly focused parish-- engaging those uncertain about their faith and increasing St. Augustine's stewardship and outreach at all levels. Those who have had opportunity to fully consider the implications of Making All Things New are open to the positive change it can enable.
- The majority of survey respondents indicated satisfaction with parish life. The Liturgy was described as the heart of our Parish life and many observed that the beauty of our church enhances our faith and worship. Many noted that funerals are approached with great empathy and reverence. There was robust input on sermons, with a broad range of views expressed. While outside the scope of the Making All Things New assessment, Msgr. Kelley and Parish Council will assess how to best address, including the publication of celebrants for Sunday masses.
- Key Strengths: Our large, vibrant and growing (+ 20% in four years) religious education program and adult faith formation. While the latter is relatively new, it is achieving notable success and many parishioners commented on its relevance.
- Key Opportunities:
 - Build on the strength of the Religious Education program and Sunday Family Mass and provide more programs relevant for young families. Great interest in additional activities that can link young families to stewardship and outreach, and suggestion that St. Augustine's assess the possibility of a pre-school
 - Young Adult Involvement: Expand program for high schoolers and develop new programs for young adults.
 - Outreach and Stewardship: Parish should strengthen its present programs and develop programs for separated, divorced and alienated Catholics and enable and encourage evangelization.

Making All Things New: Next Steps

- Initial Assessment Submitted 12/4 (available on Parish Website)
- “Cluster Parishes” Identified: Sts. John and Paul, St. Vito, Holy Trinity and St. Gregory the Great and initial meeting held 12/4.
- Cluster meeting held 1/8, and will be held monthly through June.