**Saint James Parish Pastoral Meeting Summary**

**September 3, 2019**

This was the first joint meeting with Parish Council Members (PCM) and Strategic Planning Advisors (SPA).

**Agenda:**

Begin the strategic planning process for Saint James.

**Opening Reflection.**

Father Martin began with a reflection from Pope Saint Gregory. Saint Gregory came from a prominent family, well educated, deeply spiritual and an extraordinary leader. The prayer asked for wisdom as we begin this important initiative on behalf of all Saint James parishioners.

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| **Tink Guthrie – Vice Chancellor,**  **Archdiocese of Louisville.**  **Facilitator, Strategic Planning** |

**Overview of Tink’s facilitation:**

* Tink thanked everyone for their commitment to ensure the vitality of Saint James.
* The Archdiocese feels that 5-year strategic planning helps keep churches “moving.”
* The strategic planning process will take approximately 16-18 months (given that on average the council meets monthly).
* Strategic Planning will take time and effort to unfold. A lot of “growth dynamics” will occur.
* The September 3 meeting was to lay out the process.
* All strategic planning actions and direction must focus on the Saint James Mission Statement.
* The strategic planning document will be more pastoral than business focused but will have some common elements.
* Benefits:

1. Enhance parish life and ministries.
2. Inspire ideas that help our church grow and thrive.
3. Re-energize parish life in area that have become stagnant or over-looked.
4. Plan well and thoughtfully for the future.
5. Seek feedback. Hear from all parishioners (several venues to include surveys are under discussion).
6. The strategic planning process is not stagnant. It requires constant monitoring and adjustment.

Difference between strategic planning and the discernment process.

The discernment process had three focused objectives. Strategic planning is a plan to focus on needs of the parish. Themes might include: Worship, facilities, youth.

**Recommendations:**

Since this is a large group, Tink recommended forming subcommittees. Subcommittees, with given objectives, will meet prior to monthly council meetings and will make recommendations on given topics to the full council. This process will result in more efficient and effective processes.

Two subcommittees made of 6-8 people will report back to the full parish council on October 1.

Subcommittee 1. Focus: Review the Saint James Mission Statement. Make it so that parishioners will know it by heart.

Subcommittee 2. Focus: Develop 6-8 themes where Saint James should place its time. Input from parishioners is also required.

Subcommittee 3: To be created at the October 1 meeting will focus on drafting survey questions and survey implementation and follow-through.

**Handouts Provided:**

1. **Parish Council meeting dates through March 2020.**
2. **Current Mission Statement.**
3. **Prayer for a successful process (from Father Scott).**
4. **Outline of strategic planning process.**
5. **Specific details addressed at each meeting.**

**Meeting closed with a prayer by Father Scott.**

Next meeting: October 1, 2019