

## **On Mission for then Church Alive**

### **An Historic Overview**

In Spring 2016, Bishop David Zubik instituted a strategic planning process known as *On Mission for the Church Alive*. Its purpose is to address the declining and changing population trends in the Pittsburgh Diocese, our aging priests, buildings and properties and the mounting needs for repairs and maintenance.

The Bishop, in consultation with The Catholic Leadership Institute, formed a Commission to represent the 21 districts of the diocese. Locally, each pastor was charged with selecting parishioners to serve as parish liaison. Members are: Deacon Gery Pielin, Mr. Thomas Octave, Mr. Christopher Mattis, Ms. Mary Ann Larkin, Ms. Emily Camerota, Ms. Patricia Juliano, and Mr. Eugene Mariani. The team members participated in training sessions designed to help parishes reflect on the ministerial and financial resources necessary to insure vibrant communities of worship and service.

The project utilized parish data gleaned from data submitted via annual statistical and financial reports. Various models were then designed. The following is a timeline of Our Mission for the Church:

- Fall 2016: Pastors receive draft models to share with team members
- Fall 2016: Parish pastors and teams participate in 1<sup>st</sup> District Level Consultations.
- Pastor and teams host 2 parish meetings to share models and gather feedback. At St. Maria Goretti, these were held on November 17 and 21, 2016. Questionnaires were made available to gather feedback and reactions to information distributed.
- Between February and March 2017 Parish teams participated in Cluster Level Consultations to discuss feedback and models. St. Maria Goretti submitted an alternate proposal that was not accepted.
- April – May 2017: Parish teams attend 2<sup>nd</sup> Cluster Level Consultation.

The next step is to inform and solicit additional feedback from parishes. This is where we are now. We are to submit a report to the Diocese by June 8th. Between June and December 2017, the On Mission Commission will consider all feedback and data gathered from all sources and will refine models to submit as recommendations to Bishop Zubik. The final timeline is as follows:

- Spring 2017: Bishop Zubik receives all recommendations.
- Fall 2017: Clergy of the Diocese will be interviewed with regard to new assignments
- Spring 2018 Bishop Zubik announces his decisions and timelines for implementation.
- Fall 2018: Implementation will begin to take place.