

November 16, 2017

St. David the King is part of Cohort 7

What does that mean?

What is Faith in Our Future?

The Faith in Our Future initiative is preparing for the long-term future of the diocese by bringing together Catholics throughout the diocese to identify the needs and challenges facing parishes in the diocese, propose recommendations, and then offer a plan to implement them. As Bishop David O’Connell said, “Our ancient faith always remains beautiful, true and eternal although times and circumstances have changed and require us to develop ‘new ways’ to foster, promote, and witness to our faith in order to address and re-engage an ever-changing environment.”

What is a Cohort?

A Cohort is a small team of parishes which come together for common planning and activity around the proclamation of the Gospel and the ministry of the Church in a given area of the diocese. The 107 parishes in the Diocese of Trenton have been divided into 25 Cohorts. St. David the King (West Windsor) is happy to be part of Cohort 7, along with St. Ann (Lawrenceville), St. Paul (Princeton), St. Anthony of Padua (Hightstown), and St. Hedwig (Trenton).

What is the Mission of the Faith in Our Future Program?

Each cohort exists to implement the diocesan Faith **in Our Future** decisions. In planning for new models of ministry and undertaking collaboration, the works of the cohort will strengthen and enliven all of the cohort parishes, improve the stewardship of human, financial, and facility resources, and enable more effective evangelization and outreach.

How Did Faith in Our Future Begin in Our Parish?

Twenty-five “Cohorts” or small teams of parishes utilizing lay leader volunteers as well as clergy were established by pastors to seek out a “sense of the faithful” regarding the future directions of each of the 107 parishes in the diocese. The cohorts then used various means to gather information and data from the parishes (including the surveys you completed here at St. David the King) to help determine the future direction of the diocese. The effort was unlike anything the diocese has ever seen.

Why is Cohort 7 Important to St. David the King?

The Cohort Evaluation Teams, the Diocesan Planning Commission, and Bishop O'Connell, based on the recommendations from the data collected by the parishes, established goals for each of the cohorts. The directives for Cohort 7 are:

1. To establish a collaborative model for all five parishes in the Cohort. In the Collaborative model, the **five parishes will remain distinct**, but will work together whenever possible to do what a single parish cannot do effectively alone.
2. To designate St. Hedwig as a personal parish for Polish Catholics.
3. To designate St. Paul and St. Anthony of Padua as Centers for Hispanic Ministry

How are the Cohort 7 Goals being Implemented?

Each of the cohort parishes selected four parishioners, along with the pastor, to participate on the Faith in Our Future Implementation Team. The team members attended Implementation training and meet regularly as a Cohort. St. David the King's team includes, Father Tim, Brandon and Kate Dolly, Kathy Dolly, and Jeanne Hardingham.

How does Cohort 7 Manage the Diocesan Directives?

Cohort 7 Implementation Team has been divided into subcommittees to work on specific areas of need. These include:

Mission Value and Vision Statements

Inter-Parish Communication and Social Media for Engaging Active and Inactive Parishioners

Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Adult Faith Formation, Religious Education, and Intercultural Outreach

Liturgical and Para-Liturgical Scheduling

Hispanic Ministry Centers

What is the Mission of Cohort 7?

Cohort 7 parishes are a Roman Catholic family of faith, built on the inspiration of past generations, and committed to welcoming God's sons and daughters from all cultures and background to hear and live the good News of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Our mission is to work collaboratively to provide liturgies and faith enrichment programs that are joyful and transformational, to strengthen faith formation in all generations and bring the teachings of Christ into our lives and communities.

What Can You Expect in the Future for Cohort 7?

Cohort 7 subcommittees are currently planning inter-parish, collaborative events for 2018 and beyond. We will be looking for your participation and assistance with these events. You can expect to see communication about Cohort 7's progress in the coming months.