

*The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all.*

**-Acts 4:32-33**

As you know, Faith in our Future (FIOF) is the diocesan planning initiative launched late last year, aimed at assessing and deploying local and diocesan resources more effectively. This initiative can include potential structural changes among individual parishes in support of the initiative's 5 stated objectives:

- **Strengthen and enliven** the parishes of the Diocese as well as Diocesan-sponsored organizations and ministries.
- Explore **new models of leadership** in parishes and ministries in institutional settings (schools, colleges, hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, etc.) in order to address the challenges presented by the anticipated retirement of a large number of clergy and religious over the next ten years.
- **Improve our stewardship** of personnel, finances, and facilities and other parish and Diocesan resources.
- Establish **collaborative relationships** among the parishes and ministries of the diocese that will build upon the gospel to re/evangelize the local church, especially those who live on the fringes of the church, as well as those who do not yet know Christ.
- Provide for pastoral ministry to **Hispanic Catholics**, the fastest growing segment of our Diocesan population, within our parishes and organizations.

The Diocesan Planning Council (DPC) recently published their preliminary recommendations for the 25 cohorts that are participating in the FIOF planning process. Their recommendation for Cohort 11, which is made up of St. William the Abbot and St. Veronica's in Howell, as well as St. Catherine's of Siena in Farmingdale, included several scenarios and models.

The Core Teams from these three parishes met regularly over the summer, with the intention of responding to the council's preliminary recommendation. While considering the council's thoughts, and after prayerful reflection, the cohort is currently drafting a response which will recommend a collaborative model amongst our parishes. A collaborative model means the parishes involved remain separate and distinct entities, but enter into formal cooperative relationship together so as to minimize unnecessary duplication of staff, facilities, and services, allowing them to expand ministries and meet needs that may currently go unmet.

Cohort 11 will submit this recommendation on 10/1/2016. The DPC will take these submissions into consideration before making final recommendations to the Bishop this fall. Bishop O'Connell will be making the final decision on all recommendations during Advent of this year, with implementation of those changes to occur in 2017. We appreciate all of your thoughts and prayers, as we work together to sustain the vibrant Catholic communities we live in.

# **St. Catherine of Siena's**



**Sunday, October 2nd 11:30-2:30**

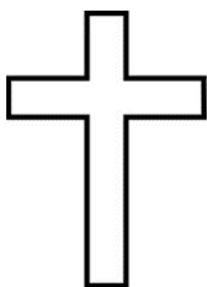
**St. Catherine's Back Parking Lot**

**Free Food**

**Games ~ Contests ~ Face Painting**

**Kids Activities**

**We will also be sponsoring a coat drive at the event.  
Please donate any extra or unwanted coats. All coats  
collected will be distributed to the needy of the local  
Farmingdale area.**



**God Bless**

