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Making All Things New
Parish Core Team Update #25
May 9, 2014

Dear Cluster Core Team Members & Parish Facilitators:

One legitimately asks: hasn't the Church been into strategic pastoral planning since Jesus ascended to His heavenly Father?

It's hardly novel. Our current Making All Things New is only the 2014 chapter of an opus which began to be composed in 33 a.d.

That's why we've stressed from the start of our present round of planning that it's more than a question about buildings, addresses, closings or merging. Yes, some of this will be called for, and the sound recommendations from our pastors, clergy, religious, and people are now "on the table," to be further prayed over, refined, and finalized.

Some are tempted to observe (and the press readily reports it!) that this strategic pastoral planning is all the result of a new, unprecedented crisis in today's Church, caused by such things as mismanagement and stupidity by bishops and priests; the stubbornness of the Church to change settled teaching (woman's ordination) or discipline (priestly celibacy) to correct the shortage of vocations; the loss of money paid to victims and attorneys due to the sex abuse nausea; or the mistakes of past bishops and pastors in overbuilding and over-expansion.

Baloney! There's not much radical, dramatic, or crisis driven in sound, patient, prayerful pastoral planning. It's been going on since Pentecost.

Thanks to all of you leading and cooperating in this current phase! It's not easy, but it's sure essential. And you're in good company with the apostles and first generation disciples.

From the blog of Timothy Cardinal Dolan May 6, 2014

As we continue to celebrate the season of Easter, here are some reminders of our next stepson our journey to *Making All Things New* in the Archdiocese of New York:

- 1. We encourage Cluster Core Teams to use Parish Facilitators over the next four weeks as you work together on your Cluster Response and Rationale. Please call your Reid Group consultant to arrange for a facilitator at no cost to the parishes.
- 2. The Preliminary Recommendations created by the Archdiocesan Advisory Group at their March Retreat were distributed to pastors and Cluster Core Team members on April 22nd. If you are a pastor or Core Team member and did not receive the Preliminary Recommendation for your Cluster, please send an e-mail to Helen Damitio, HDamitio@TheReidGroup.biz, with your name, Cluster # and e-mail address.
- 3. Cluster Responses with rationales to the Preliminary Recommendations are due June 8, 2014, one week later than originally stated. Please send your Cluster Responses, either as a Word document or PDF, to Helen Damitio, HDamitio@TheReidGroup.biz. This will complete Steps 4 & 5 in the 8-Step process.
- 4. Cluster Responses come from the Cluster as a whole, not from individual parishes. The Response will need to have the signatures of the Cluster core team members as with the Cluster Suggestions. There can be Plan A& Plan B options with rationales for each if everyone in a cluster does not reach a total consensus.
- 5. The Archdiocesan Advisory Group will meet in **late June to review all Cluster Responses** at a second planning retreat and will prepare **Final Recommendations that will be sent to Cardinal Dolan.** This will complete Step 6 in the 8-Step process.
- 6. Cardinal Dolan expects to announce his decisions (Step 7) in September so that implementation (Step 8) can begin soon thereafter.

HAVE QUESTIONS? SEND THEM to <u>KJohnson@TheReidGroup.biz</u> and we will address them in future updates.

Thank you again for all your good work. Please do not hesitate to call or email one of your Reid Group team members if you have questions.

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