

St. Catharine – St. Margaret Parish Town Hall Meeting
St. Catharine School Auditorium
January 25, 2017

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome Prayer and Introduction of the Parish Pastoral Council

- Fr. Cullen welcomed the 41 attendees to the meeting and gave an opening prayer.
- The 11 current members of the Pastoral Council were introduced to the attendees – Becki Rubel (excused), John Fudge (excused), Dana Puharic (excused), Michael Mastrocola, Maureen Liddy, Maureen Martin, Elizabeth Perry, Lisa Keefe, Joe Iorio, Susan Marks, and Jack Kirnan

State of St. Catharine – St. Margaret Parish Report

- Fr. Cullen provided an overview of the parish, including our relative size in the Diocese of Trenton (among top 25%) and our inherent breadth and complexity:
 - 3 Church buildings, including St. Catharine, St. Margaret, and St. Catharine Chapel. Both the Chapel and St. Margaret's are handicap accessible.
 - 2 cemeteries both with mausoleums.
 - St. Catharine School serves students from Pre-K through 8th grade with enrollment levels approaching close to 400 students.
 - The parish owns 13 acres of property in Wall Township which includes some wetlands.
 - There are 3,866 families registered in the parish with 60 of these families not present during the winter months.
 - An average of 1,700-1,900 parishioners attend our 9 Masses on a typical weekend.
 - Our parish population almost doubles during the summer months.
- Parish Sacramental data for the year 2015 were shared with attendees:
 - 67 Baptisms
 - 99 Confirmations
 - 76 First Reconciliation and First Holy Communions
 - 62 Weddings
 - 180 sick calls made to parishioners living in an institutional setting
 - 141 sick calls made to parishioners living at home
 - 104 Funerals

- Fr. Cullen also shared other relevant parish data:
 - 412 students enrolled in CCD Program
 - 15 home schooled students
 - 29 Catechists and 16 Aides
 - 28 active Parish Ministries
 - A renewed focus on Youth Programs, including a new middle school Youth Group
- Fr. Cullen highlighted several new initiatives that have been undertaken during the past 2 years, including our Music ministry and recent concert series; several new faith-based programs like the *Biblical Walk with Mary* and *Doors of Mercy*; our renewed focus on evangelization; and the launch of the new Spirituality Committee.
- Fr. Cullen is optimistic about the future of our parish and invited all parishioners to think carefully about what they would like our parish to look like over the next 5 years.

Overview of the Strategic Planning Process

- Dr. Jack Kirnan provided some background information on the Parish Pastoral Council's progress to date in developing a new Strategic Plan for the parish community. He mentioned that the Council is committed to reviewing our current Parish Mission Statement as well as to creating a Statement of Core Values and a Vision Statement for the future.
- Dr. Kirnan explained that the primary purpose of the 1st Town Hall meeting is to ask our parishioners for their input and feedback on what they believe are our greatest strengths as a parish as well as to help the Council define what our greatest challenges and needs are over the next 5 years. Break Out Teams would discuss our parish strengths and challenges and the Parish Pastoral Council would summarize the feedback to build an Agenda for our 2nd Town Hall meeting to be held on February 1st. During the 2nd Town Hall meeting, parishioners will help the Council formulate specific goals and objectives for each of the challenge/need areas that are identified during the 1st Town Hall meeting. The Council would continue to meet during the next several months to develop an Action Plan with specific accountabilities and timelines with the objective of completing the new Strategic Plan for the parish by June 2017.
- The Parish Pastoral Council has been meeting monthly since January 2015 and has had significant interaction with fellow parishioners, our 28 Parish Ministries, and has also reviewed parish survey data taken in February 2016 as part of the Diocese of Trenton *Faith in Our Future* planning initiative. 744 parishioners completed the survey questionnaire (19% of our registered families) which included about 500 comments. All inputs to date have helped the Parish Pastoral Council frame some of the key challenges that lie ahead for our parish. The 2 Town Hall meetings represent another important input to the overall planning process.

- To date, the Parish Pastoral Council has identified 7 Potential Areas of Focus that could be addressed in a new Strategic Plan for the parish community:
 - Hospitality
 - Youth & Family Faith Foundation Programs
 - Supporting Parish Ministries
 - Developing More Effective Communications & Marketing Strategies
 - Examining the Parish Leadership and Stewardship Structure
 - Long-Term Capital & Maintenance Needs of the Parish
 - Support for St. Catharine School

Parish Strengths and Challenges Activity

- 6 Break Out Teams were formed and each Team was asked to spend 20 minutes to identify at least 3 signature strengths of the parish. Each Break Out Team was then asked to spend 30 minutes discussing the 3 greatest challenges/needs facing our parish. Each Break Out Team shared their observations with the broader audience and recorded them on the flip charts that were provided. The following Tables summarize the major strengths and challenges for St. Catharine – St. Margaret Parish that were shared during the meeting:

KEY PARISH STRENGTHS	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	TEAM 3	TEAM 4	TEAM 5	TEAM 6
HIGH QUALITY OF COMMITTED PARISHIONERS	X			X		X
# OF PRIESTS & MASSES	X	X	X		X	
PARISH MINISTRIES & OUTREACH	X				X	X
WELCOMING & APPROACHABLE PRIESTS	X		X			
FINANCIAL STABILITY		X			X	X
LITURGY & HOMILIES		X	X			
ST. CATHARINE SCHOOL		X		X	X	X
FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS		X				
MUSIC & PROGRAMS		X	X	X		
COMMUNICATION						
PARISHIONERS FRIENDLY & GENEROUS			X			
LOCATION & SUMMER VISITORS			X		X	X
HISTORY OF PARISH				X		X
2 CEMETERIES/MAUSOLEUMS				X		

Note: An “X” indicates which Teams identified as a Key Strength of the Parish

KEY PARISH CHALLENGES AND NEEDS	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	TEAM 3	TEAM 4	TEAM 5	TEAM 6
HOSPITALITY & COMMUNITY		X		X	X	X
YOUTH INVOLVEMENT	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCHOOL – INTEGRATE WITH PARISH & SUPPORT ENROLLMENT						X
SECULAR INFLUENCES						X
GETTING NEW PEOPLE INVOLVED					X	
SEGMENTATION CHALLENGE					X	
TECHNOLOGY & DATA	X	X		X	X	
SPIRITUALITY					X	
SOCIAL MEDIA, MARKETING & ADVERTISING	X	X		X	X	
FAITH FORMATION			X			
COMMUNITY EVENTS			X			
MUSIC		X				
HOMILIES	X					
COLLABORATION WITH DIOCESAN COHORT 19	X					
LEADERSHIP & STEWARDSHIP						
CAPITAL NEEDS & MAINTENANCE						

Note: An “X” indicates which Teams identified as a Key Challenge/Need of the Parish

Overview for February 1st Town Hall Meeting

- Dr. Kirnan told attendees they will receive a detailed summary of the meeting minutes via email prior to the next Town Hall meeting on February 1st.
- The primary objective for the 2nd Town Hall meeting will be to ask parishioners to help the Parish Pastoral Council formulate specific goals and objectives for each of the challenge/need areas that were identified during the 1st Town Hall meeting.

Adjournment

- Before adjourning the meeting, Fr. Cullen highlighted Bishop O’Connell’s recent letter to parishioners in the Diocese of Trenton with specific recommendations for each of the 107 parishes that were included in the *Faith in Our Future* initiative. St. Catharine – St. Margaret Parish will be expected to adopt the Collaborative Parish Model with each of the 4 other parishes in its cohort (Cohort 19 in the Diocese of Trenton), including St. Mark’s Sea Girt, St. Rose Belmar, St. Elizabeth’s Avon, and Ascension Bradley Beach. The enhanced level of collaboration will ensure that the parishes within our cohort will work

together on specific, agreed-upon areas of ministry, programs, staffing, and resources to avoid unnecessary duplication and inefficiencies.

- The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm with a closing prayer from Fr. Cullen

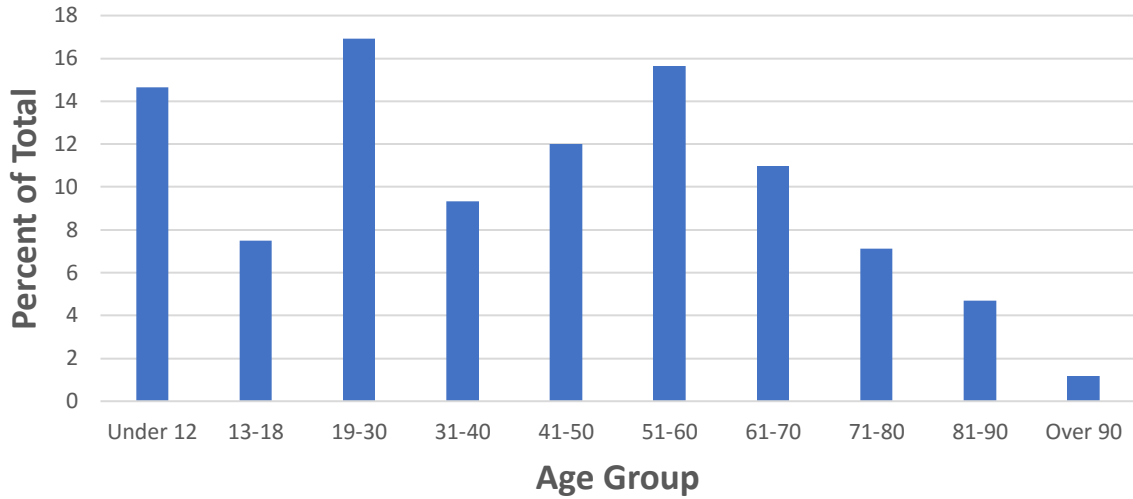
Follow-Up Questions from the Town Hall Meeting

During the Q&A session before the Break Out Team discussions, there were several questions regarding both the age and geographic composition of our registered parishioners. Parish Registrations data as of January 2017 is presented below:

**St. Catharine – St. Margaret Parish
Parish Registrations by Age Group
January 2017**

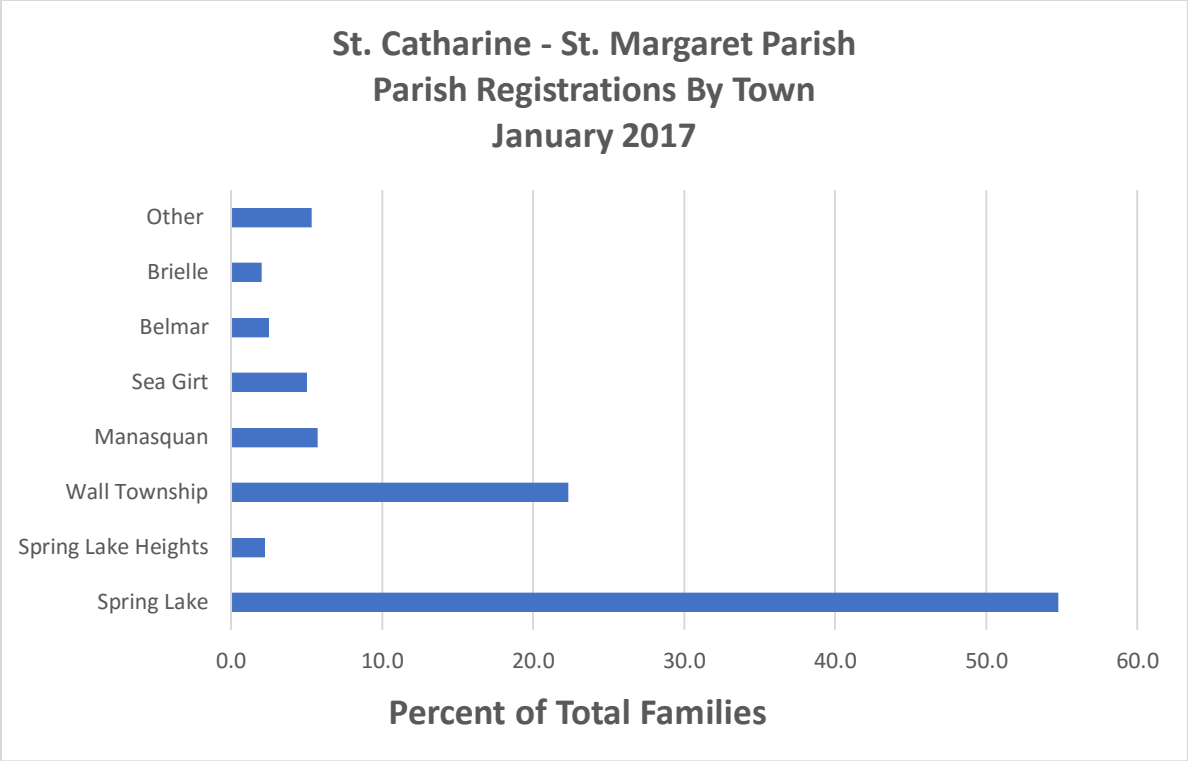
<u>Age Range</u>	<u>Parishioners</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Under 12	1,520	14.6%
13-18	778	7.5%
19-30	1,757	16.9%
31-40	967	9.3%
41-50	1,245	12.0%
51-60	1,624	15.6%
61-70	1,139	11.0%
71-80	740	7.1%
81-90	486	4.7%
Over 90	121	1.2%
Total	10,377	100%

**St. Catharine - St. Margaret Parish
Parish Registrations by Age Group (%)
January 2017**



**St. Catharine – St. Margaret Parish
Parish Registrations by Town
January 2017**

<u>Town</u>	<u># of Families</u>	<u>% of Families</u>
Spring Lake	1,909	54.8
Spring Lake Heights	78	2.2
Wall Township	779	22.4
Manasquan	200	5.7
Sea Girt	175	5.0
Belmar	88	2.5
Brielle	70	2.0
Other	186	5.3
Total	3,485	100.0



- Another question was raised regarding the 744 completed questionnaires from the *Faith in Our Future* planning initiative and why the survey results had not been published to date. Fr. Cullen said that the survey results were not designed to address specific issues for St. Catharine – St. Margaret Parish, but rather were designed to address the objectives that were laid out in the *Faith in Our Future* Planning initiative.

THE NEXT TOWN HALL MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST AT 7PM AT ST. CATHARINE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM