

# *What is Making All Things New?*



Dear Parishioners,

Many of you may already be aware of *Making All Things New*, the Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative. All parishes in the New York Archdiocese are participating. Beginning this weekend, and for the next few weeks, we will include a bulletin insert outlining *Making All Things New* and our parish's response.

Recognizing the dramatic changes over the years in such vital areas as Mass attendance, the number of available priests, and the places that Catholics live and worship, Cardinal Dolan recognized the importance of initiating a pastoral planning process for the Archdiocese. *Making All Things New* is the name given to this process.

Among its most important goals are the following:

To enhance the vibrancy of parish life in the Archdiocese of New York.

To foster an appreciation for and participation in Sunday Eucharist.

To implement parish planning within the Archdiocese considering the needs of the people, the projected number of priests available to serve, financial resources, and changing demographics.

After several years of planning, including an Archdiocesan wide survey that you may recall taking in the spring of 2011, this planning process is now entering a critical phase. Decisions will soon be made to consolidate, merge, or even close some of the Archdiocese's 386 parishes.

Cardinal Dolan is inviting an open, transparent process in which every parish will have an opportunity to engage in self-assessment (**Phase I**), and then work with nearby parishes to discern the best way forward for their particular area (**Phase II**). In order to assist in this work, every pastor was asked to form a small core team of dedicated parishioners. Our team includes Chris Baldwin (Chair), Sim Johnston, Michael Poulos, Catherine Scalera (Secretary) and Ed Reilly.

I am working closely with this group to plan and execute our parish's participation in this extremely important initiative.

We have devised three primary tools for **Phase I** (our self-assessment): a **Parish Survey**, which will be available online and in paper form beginning Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> (you will also be able to fill out the questionnaire this weekend after the masses); the opportunity to participate in a **Town Hall Meeting**, open to all parishioners, Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Rochester Room; and another one on Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., also in the Rochester Room, for those involved in special ministries and/or parish activities (e.g. lectors, Eucharistic ministers, parish council, leisure lunch).

While our parish is strong, and hardly in danger of closing, we simply do not know what the final configuration of parishes on the Upper East Side will be. Our open, generous, and prayerful participation in this process will help ensure an outcome that is centered in the Spirit.

I encourage you to pray for the success of this much needed initiative.

For additional information you can visit [www.archny.org/pastoral/parish-planning](http://www.archny.org/pastoral/parish-planning).

With best wishes and gratitude to you for your continued concern and support,  
Rev. Kevin V. Madigan, Pastor