

“The Holy Spirit in the Church”

- Dr. Mary Ann Gubish

Questions for Discussion or Personal Reflection

1. This video is a reflection on the working of the Holy Spirit in the midst of our contemporary church. In what ways do you see the spirit moving within your own community today? Where do you see light within your parish?

2. Dr. Gubish speaks of the movement of the Church throughout history and the length of time it takes for the movement of the spirit to take hold within a community. She quotes canon law professor Fr. James Provost in suggesting it will take almost a century before the Second Vatican Council is fully realized. How does this perspective influence the way you imagine the work of your own Parish Pastoral Council?

3. The image of consultation as full participation acknowledges that the Holy Spirit moves and works through the entire faith community. *“Let that which touches all be approved by all.”* How do you see this perspective relating to Dr. Cieslak’s talk on “Consultation with the laity” or Mr. Mogilka’s talk on the Relationship of the Pastor and Parish Council”? Are they all saying the same thing, or are their subtle nuances that must be pondered as a council? Why is this important as your PPC continues its work?

4. Dr. Gubish acknowledges that good planning results in the following:

- Potential to build up the faith community.
- Increased knowledge
- Increased communication
- Increased investment in the mission of the parish and the diocese

Consider the planning initiatives in your parish. How could these factors be better realized?

5. A case study of two parishes is introduced. Parish A and Parish B are both doing good things. What separates them? Which parish is more attractive to you? Which parish most relates to your own?

About the Speaker:

Dr. Mary Ann Gubish spent 15 years as a pastoral associate at 3 different parishes before taking a position as the Director of Pastoral Life and Planning for the Diocese of Greensburg, Pennsylvania where she was responsible for supervising parish, regional and diocesan pastoral council development, as well as providing and facilitating group processes for parish, regional and diocesan collaboration. Gubish received a Master of Arts degree in Theology from Duquesne University and a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. Gubish is the co-author of *Revisioning the Parish Pastoral Council* (Paulist Press).