

We Journey Together

by Pam Hume - PPC Member

As I walked excitedly into Our Lady of Angels, I knew what was happening in O.L.A. was being orchestrated throughout our diocese. Imagine, the faithful were uniting to share a vision of our future Church.

Father James E. Devlin, our pastor, greeted us. The room was filled with anticipation regarding the forming of the new Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). We were the nominees. Weekly we had been advised through our parish bulletin what was happening in the diocese. Now, it was our turn to sit, listen, and be heard. Never before in the history of our Church has the magisterium come to the people of God.

Georgeann Campbell, our facilitator was excellent. She spoke about our role in the Church and how much each one of us is needed to share his/her talents for God's children. We prayed and invoked the blessings of the Holy Spirit.

A week later the discernment process began. Those interested in continuing came, sharing their spirituality and telling of their talents. I was blown away when I heard statements like: "All I want to do is serve." "I love my God; I love my Church." "I am here because a brick has been tossed my way telling me I need to get involved in the Church." "I was away from my Church and now I have been brought back to serve."

Through grace of God and the workings of the Holy Spirit, and the leadership of Fr. Devlin, that night our Parish Pastoral Planning Council was born. We met and agreed to invite those who attended the discernment process to assist us in our next step of One-to-One Conversation. These faith-filled people said, "YES". Hence, our facilitator base and outreach to our parish widened.

My reaction is one of joy, and anticipation of a Church who is listening to her children. My hope is that we are and will become more of a welcoming Church to all who come through our doors. To walk the walk and talk the talk as Jesus.

Our first meeting to bring us into the fold of council members was held at St. Patrick's Church in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. There we met council members from other parishes just as eager as we to work for the honor and glory of our Triune God.

On this day, the spirit was jubilant. Robert Choiniere kept us all upbeat, as did the other facilitators and Sr. Maryellen Kane with a view toward visioning for our Church.

I am truly humbled to work with extraordinarily dedicated men and women.

May the grace and peace of the Holy Spirit be with us, forever, is my prayer, and may all of us enjoy the ride wherever it leads. Amen.