Bishop O’Connell has begun a new initiative called ***Faith in Our Future,*** a process designed to have parishes plan for the future in concert with other parishes. The Bishop’s over-all goal is to enhance the vibrancy of parish life in the Diocese of Trenton so that parishes will be even more effective signs and centers of faith, hope, and love to all God’s people. Due to many factors, a process was needed for parishes to work together, in order to strengthen and enhance parish life. Given the availability and leadership of priests as well as deacons, men and women religious, and lay people, the Bishop thought that this is the right time for us to act as good stewards of our human and financial resources and discover ways to strengthen parishes and diocesan-wide ministries, so that current parishioners may be well served both now and in the future.

In the ***Faith in Our Future*** processall parishes in the diocese will be involved in working with neighboring parishes to assess their strengths, name their concerns, and explore how they can work together to better serve the People of God. While understanding that change is inevitable, parishes will be asked to suggest a future model or models of parish life.

The neighboring parishes we will be working with include: St Maximilian Kolbe Parish, St Justin Parish and St Joseph Parish. Together we will plan to:

1. Share more resources with each other and with parishes in need;
2. Avoid unneeded duplication of services; and
3. Fill the gaps where service and ministry have not been available.

Over the next few weeks, we will be providing you with additional information through Bulletin inserts, our Parish website (<http://stlukestomsriver.org/>), small group meetings and various surveys. We encourage all parishioners to participate in the process and offer your input. You are encouraged to view the six-minute video message from Bishop O’Connell introducing ***Faith in Our Future*** at: <http://www.dioceseoftrenton.orgfaithinourfuture/>.

Thank you for your participation in this important planning initiative that will help build a strong future for the People of God.

Fr. Bob Grodnicki and the Parish Core Team