

Catholic Community of South Baltimore Listening Project

As baptized Christians anointed with the Chrism of Salvation, we participate in the threefold ministry of Christ as Priest, Prophet, and King. Our parish Mission Statement posted on the inside front cover of the bulletin refers to this when it describes us as a community ‘celebrating the Sacraments, proclaiming the Gospel, and serving the People of God.’

- * As Priest we are a Christian people who *offer prayers* for others and make *personal sacrifices* for the community;
- * As Prophet we are the voice for the Word of God made Flesh. We proclaim *justice* for those who are vulnerable and the *comfort* of the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- * As King, we *shepherd* the lost, we *serve* the needs of others and we *lead* others to Christ.

The Pastoral Council initiated a project on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord for each of us to reflect on our baptismal call and how the Catholic Community of South Baltimore (CCSB) helps us to live that call. Though one person is baptized as an individual ‘none of us lives for oneself’ (Romans 14:7). Each person is baptized into a Christian Community and it is through the community we participate in the three-fold ministry of Christ as Priest, Prophet and King.

The project invites all of us to reflect on our life as a Christian and how the CCSB helps *each of us as a person* and *all of us as a people* to live that Christian life abundantly. (I came so that they may have life and have it more abundantly – John 10:10). In order to accomplish this, the Pastoral Council has invited about fifteen parishioners to visit fellow parishioners who are willing to share their reflections on the following:

1. What are the good things about the Catholic Community of South Baltimore that you value?
2. How does being a member of CCSB help you to live the gospel or bring holiness into the world? Are there things CCSB could be doing to help you do that better?
3. In what ways should the CCSB be serving the broader community (locally, nationally, and internationally) beyond our parish community?
4. Think about what specifically you would like the CCSB to look like in 5 years. What will we be doing to live out our mission that we are not doing now?
5. Is there anything else, either good things or concerns you have, that you want to express about the CCSB?

Having parishioners visit parishioners builds the bonds of community among us. Hearing from as many parishioners as possible, reminds us that each member of the community is valued.

The valued reflections shared during these visitations will be gathered together to guide the council and staff. It will take several months to visit the target number of at least one hundred parishioners. In the coming weeks, the listening team will begin contacting parishioners to schedule visits. There will be an opportunity for any parishioner who wants to be visited to be visited. Please watch the bulletin for more information.

These last years the Council has promulgated the Mission Statement to give us direction and created the Mapping the Mission Endowment to live that Mission for generations to come. This year in that same Spirit, the Pastoral Council initiates this process to guide us as we seek to live that Mission now in this present generation.