



BETTER TOGETHER

Coming Soon! **Better Together!** A Lenten small group Pastoral Planning Discernment process.

Ultimate Goal: Our parish/diocese becoming a center of charity and mercy through stewardship spirituality rooted in gratitude for God's blessings and co-responsibility of the laity and clergy.

Stepping Stones:

1. Multiple small groups of parishioners (all ages welcome) meet for 4 sessions (approximately 1-1.5 hours each) during the season of Lent to pray, read Scripture and excerpts of Church documents, reflect & **discern**, and then answer three questions per session per group.
 - a. (Strengths) What are we doing well in each area?
 - b. (Weaknesses) What are opportunities for growth, to do better?
 - c. (Action) What concrete recommendations does the group offer to make a positive change?

Themes:

- a. **Stewardship:** DOES NOT MEAN a fundraising scheme!! *True stewardship* is awareness of the gifts/blessings/talents I have received, tending them, sharing them with others. How I respond to what God has given me.
 - b. **Co-Responsibility:** The clergy and the laity understanding their distinct roles, having a mutual respect & appreciation for the each other's role, and collaborating together to bring the light of Christ to the world.
 - c. **Centers of Charity:** How do we reach out to tend the physical needs in the community?
 - d. **Centers of Mercy:** How do we tend the souls in our parish & communities?
2. Each week the discernment report is given to Fr. Jerry and the pastoral council from each group.
 3. May 17: **Youth Summit.** Youth delegates from our parish meet with youth from our Diocese.
 4. May - June: Fr. Jerry and pastoral council pray, *discern* and write a 3-year pastoral plan with 2 to 3 concrete actions addressing physical/spiritual needs of parish & community at large on which the parish will focus and implement over a 3-year time span.
 5. July - August: Individual parish pastoral plans are sent to the Diocese. The Diocese writes a Diocesan pastoral plan focused on helping each parish fulfill their mission specific plan. In September and August the Diocesan Pastoral Council and Presbyteral Council review/affirm.
 6. First Sunday of Advent 2020: Diocesan and Parish Pastoral Plans go into effect.

Key Focus: **DISCERNMENT** of what God wants us to do in our parish at this time. This is not about what I individually think/want or about changing doctrine or dogma. It is about how does God want us to live the truth of our faith in 2 or 3 concrete actions in the here and now, in our homes, parish, and community at large.

Why should I participate? Just as a puzzle needs all its pieces linked together for the picture to be whole, so is the parish, the Church. Each person has a critical role, a mission given by God, and in collaboration with each other the Body of Christ is whole and is lived in the world as a beacon of hope and light.

How can I participate? Registration forms are available in the back of church & on back of this form.

Tentative starting date: The week of March 8. Watch bulletin and parish website.



**“Better Together” Pastoral Planning Process
Diocese of Jefferson City
Lenten Small Group Discernment Experience
ST. BONAVENTURE CATHOLIC CHURCH
Marceline, Missouri**

For Office Use:	
I.D. #:	_____
Received by:	_____
Date Received:	_____

Last Name	First/Preferred Name
Phone	E-mail
Address	City, State, Zip

Session Attending / Location:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunday, 8:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. / Fr. McCartan Between morning Masses
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. / Rectory Ladies Faith Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. / TBD During children’s PSR
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. / TBD After the weekly Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other -- I will organize a group starting on _____ at _____ (date) (time) and _____ (location)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am interested in participating, however none of these times work.

I will assist the *Better Together* Discernment Experience to be a success by:

- Facilitate** a small group (6-12 people/group, we provide training)
- Set-up**—open room; set up chairs, if necessary; (GOAL=rotating schedule)
- Clean-up**—close room; take down chairs, if necessary; (GOAL = rotating schedule)
- Host**—in your home. Need a space to comfortable fit 6-12 people.

Childcare:

We hope to make childcare is available. Please indicate name(s) and age(s) of child(ren) who will need childcare.

(Optional) Additional Small Group Options

<input type="checkbox"/>	I am already a part of a small group and would like to participate with them. Facilitator name:
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to be in the same small group as the following person/people:

Tentative start date:
Week of March 8

Total number of sessions:
4

Cost of program / childcare:
Free.

Paid for by your generosity in the general collection.

Return registration forms:
To rectory or in collection basket

For more information:
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