

Dear «informal_salutation»:

The Pastoral Council invites you to attend an important Parish Facilities Forum on Sunday, May 1, 2011 from 1:00-2:30pm in the Parish Center. For our parish to thrive and grow over the next 25 years, we *need* you to attend, learn and express your priorities and passions for St. Catherine's (StC) future programs. This 90-minute session will substantially influence StC's future!

You are a member of StC's loving Catholic community. Every voice is important and every voice has value.

We ask that you come prepared by reviewing an important document prior to the meeting. You can access it at [Possible Programs](#). More details are shown in the bulletin insert below.

StC is your parish; its programs and facilities are essential components. Be in on creating its future!

Mike Redlin
Facilitator

Bulletin from April 23-24:

SHAPING ST. CATHERINE'S FUTURE

YOUR PRIORITIES AND PASSIONS

COME TO THE SUNDAY, MAY 1, PARISH FORUM ON MISSION-COMPATIBLE PROGRAMS!

We now seek your priorities on mission-compatible programs of such significant scope and impact that St. Catherine's will grow and have a regional presence over the next 25 years.

Which ones are you passionate about and which ones have your highest priority? Many possibilities were suggested during brainstorming at our March 27 Parish Forum. Here are some possibilities, among many others:

- Youth programming (after school, nursery, and social)
- Faith formation for young and old to train next generation of faith leaders (connect with St Bernard's, Rochester, NY)
- Senior Housing
- Intergenerational partnering for activities and programs
- Work program with Catholic Charities

The complete list of possible programs and their descriptions will be available after Tuesday, April 26th in the parish office or at <http://stcathofsiena.org/pages/facilities/possibleprograms.pdf>. *Please review the document prior to attending the forum so that you understand the possibilities.*

This is Your Parish. We want everyone involved in this parish-wide decision-making process.

We especially invite transient graduate students and younger parishioners to offer your input. Our goal is to have tentative approval from Father Joe by June 30th on the best programs to study and refine. After this further study, we will present you a comprehensive approach to attaining the parishioners' collective vision. It might involve starting new ministries, selling a portion of St. Catherine's valuable land holdings and possibly considering another capital campaign. No decision has been taken on this and will not be decided definitely until late 2012.

Some may say: but haven't we already spent enough time discussing the parish center and church? It is true that from 2007-2010 we focused our energies in **Phase One** (repairing our critically deteriorated church building and raising the funds to pay for the work). Yet, now that is in the past.

We are again looking forward in **Phase Two**. We understand that circumstances have changed since 2007. We know a reorganization of the parishes within Tompkins County is inevitable and we know we must readjust our thinking about the future. Yet, we have many strengths:

- We are blessed to have a new pastor
- We have many new parishioners
- We have \$500,000 in reserve fund designated for the parish center
- We have land we could sell and/or use for strategic programs
- We have talented and passionate parishioners

Help our parish thrive and contribute to building Christ's Kingdom here on earth. Express **your priorities and passions** at the Sunday, May 1st Parish Forum in the parish center from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Babysitting will be available and pizza and beverages will be served.