BETTER
TOGETHER

How do we become a “Church Living in the Midst of Her People?”
Throughout our diocese this Lent, people are meeting in small groups to break open the Word of God and study Church teachings. In these small groups, we will discern action for our parishes and our diocese to live our faith. Over four weeks, we will explore themes related to Bishop Shawn McKnight’s vision for our diocese. Contact your parish to join a small group!

❖ What does Holy Family parish already do really well?
❖ What can we do better?
❖ How can we reach out to our parish family and our local community to address unmet social and spiritual needs? What are those needs?
❖ What does God want our parish to focus on?
❖ Your input, thoughts, and prayers are needed to help answer these questions and more!

What’s the process? How does this work?
❖ During Lent, the small groups will meet for four sessions.
❖ A booklet will be used to guide prayer and discussion. Copies will be provided, but you can also see the booklet at https://diojeffcity.org/better-together. A few copies will be available in the back of church for those who want a copy but don’t have internet access.
❖ At the end of each session, each group will be asked to submit a Discernment Report, compiled from participants’ insights, to their pastor.
❖ The Pastor and pastoral planning council will use these reports to develop a 3-year parish pastoral plan, which will include two or three goals or activities for the parish. The Pastor and parish pastoral planning council will continue working on strategic and business planning to answer the details of “who, what, where, when and how” for the pastoral plan to be implemented.
❖ The plan will be implemented the first week of Advent 2020.
❖ In turn, the Diocese, using all parish-level plans, will develop a Diocesan Pastoral Plan, focusing on how they can assist parishes in accomplishing their goals.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight: “I am inviting every parish and every Catholic in our diocese to join in a pastoral planning process, “Better Together.” By breaking open the Church’s teachings, especially those of the Second Vatican Council and Pope Francis, we want each parish in the Diocese to be known as a place of charity and mercy, accomplished by clergy and laity working together, and by being grounded in a spirituality of stewardship. How that vision is enabled in each parish will be discerned by each of you.”

The booklet and more information can be found at https://diojeffcity.org/better-together.

Contact Carleen Dickneite at 573-680-2798 or Kaitlin Struemph at 573-694-2073 if you want to join or lead a small group. We hope many in the parish will help with this important effort!