



ST ALPHONSUS CHURCH
AUBURN, NY



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Now for the second letter, about the future . . .

We Are Pleased to Announce
St. Alphonsus' Strategic Planning Process
Growing in Witness, Serving in Love
Phase I: The Launch Gatherings (Now, Spring 2016)
Phase II: Strategic Planning (coming in Fall of 2016)

I am thrilled to announce a strategic planning initiative for St. Alphonsus' Parish. This will be a two phase process with the actual planning to take place this coming fall. To prepare for this process, however, there are a few key pieces that must be put into place, that is, Phase I.

These important pieces are six Councils and Teams that will help to serve as the foundation of St. Alphonsus' life and ministries. Now, to be sure, there are other groups and teams that already exist and that are also essential. These are the six that are most in need of revitalization or need to be created before St. Alphonsus can continue to grow and flourish as a community of faith. These six Councils (which are required of every parish) and Teams (which are integral to the life of our parish) are summarized on the next page.

I am hosting two Launch Gatherings so that you and I can launch these six new or revitalized groups. You will notice that there will be 9 members of each of these groups. We are in need of a total of 54 people. I do not expect any person to over extend themselves and so I am asking you to consider membership in just one of these groups.

I am so happy to be your pastor here at St. Alphonsus. I have seen firsthand the generosity how parishioners respond to the needs of the wider community. For instance, I have deeply appreciated parishioners who have stepped up and responded to the huge number of tasks and details that must be taken care of for our parish to celebrate the holy times of Christmas and Holy Week. Because of their response, we have celebrated these well and worshiped our God and Savior with great sincerity, reverence, and joy.

These six Councils and Teams are in great need of your time, energy, and gifts. I need people like you to become members of these groups and in this way serve your parish and be a part of its growth.

Here is what I am asking:

- Read the summaries of each Council and Team on the next page
- Prayerfully consider your possible involvement in one of these
- Attend one of two Launch Summits where you will
 - Hear more about each group
 - Have your questions answered
 - Take part in a prayer service to help you prayerfully decide if you would like to become a member of one of these groups
 - Have time on your own to consider your participation in one of the Councils or Teams at this time or to decide not to participate at this time.
 - Make a decision at that time, or take materials home and make the decision at a later time

Attending these Discernment Events will not require any obligation to become a member of any of the Councils or Teams. It is an opportunity to receive more information, find out expectations, and prayerfully consider your involvement.

I have been inspired by the scriptures of our Sunday Masses these past few Easter Weekends. They tell us of Jesus' gracious gift of forgiveness, of our living lives of faith and love, and of the gift of the Holy Spirit that gives us the graces we need to live our lives well.

We live these lives of faith in Jesus Christ and in God our Father personally and also as a community of believers. I am joyful and honored to be by your side as members of St. Alphonsus' community of believers and I am thrilled to have this opportunity to be a part of its growth, working hand in hand with you.

With my prayers, appreciation and encouragement,



**Please take the time to attend the launch of these Councils and Teams on
Thursday May 19 at 6:30 PM to 7:45 PM or on Saturday May 21 at 9:00 AM to 10:15 AM
At St. Alphonsus Parish Center**

Detach and return to the address on the letterhead or in the Sunday Collection
or email your response to Fr. Tim at niven@dor.org

I will attend the Launch Summit on

___ Thursday May 19 at 6:30 PM
___ Saturday May 21 at 9:00 AM

My Information

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I am most interested in the following groups

___ Parish Council

___ Finance Council

___ Buildings and Grounds Council (new)

___ Life Long Faith Formation Team (new)

___ Prayer and Worship Team (new)

___ Pastoral Care Team (new).