April 2, 2019

Dear Members of St. Brendan’s,

 On Sunday, we had an informative and helpful meeting with Michael Ambler, Canon to the Ordinary. Michael presided at our 10 a.m. service and with our congregation commissioned our Search Committee. St. Brendan’s Discernment Prayer closed the commissioning liturgy:

 *Almighty God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on the people of St. Brendan’s and guide our hearts and minds as we seek to discern your will for our future and seek to be drawn closer to you. Amen.*

After the service,Michael explained the search process and walked us through the twelve questions that will become an important piece of our Portfolio. The answers to these questions will describe who we are, what we do, and what we want for our future. They differentiate us from other churches in this process; this is an opportunity for us to tell *our* story.

 The questions are on the following page. Your answers can be brief (one or two sentences) or a longer response is also welcome. If you have thoughts not covered by one of the questions, please share them. We want to hear your hopes, dreams, and concerns in this next step in our parish life. In order for our Committee to begin our work in earnest, we need your responses before April 14th. There are various ways to give us your feedback:

 1) Mail your responses to Martha Dane, 8 Weed Point Rd., Little Deer Isle, ME 04650

 2) Reply online: <http://stbrendans-me.org/oursearch> Type in your responses and click “Submit” Reponses will be sent to Barbara Kourajian. If you have additional thoughts, please email Barbara at barbkourajian@gmail.com

 3) Call in your responses to one of the members of the Search Committee:

 Judy Miller (617) 645-1711 Martha Dane (207) 348-5245

 Curtis Flowers (256) 275-7087 Luke Williams (207) 367-5823

 Bill Scaife (413) 628-4723 Barbara Kourajian (207) 326-9153

 **We will reconvene on Sunday, April 14th to share our thoughts.** At that time, we would like to share the responses of parishioners unable to attend. It will be the task of the Search Committee to gather these responses in a concise form. Once complete, these will be shared with Michael Ambler and the congregation before they are posted online for potential candidates to consider.

 Please give these questions your thoughtful and prayerful consideration. We look forward to hearing from you. We encourage you to pray the above Discernment Prayer.

 **The Search Committee**

**The Office of Transition Ministry Questions**

***Please respond before April 14th***

Michael Ambler’s comments are in italics.

 *A general comment: Simply substitute “St. Brendan’s” for the term “worshipping community” or “your community.”*

1. Describe a moment in your worshiping community’s recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

 C*hoose one thing to focus on and tell a story that will speak to the mind and spirit of a priest.*

2. Describe your liturgical style & practice. If your community provides more than one type of worship, describe all.

 *What does worship feel like and why does it matter to you? Describe what we do and why we do it.*

3. How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

 *Michael knows we have strong lay engagement/involvement. He suggested for St. Brendan’s that “others” refers to the laity.*

4. As a worshiping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being?

 *How do we care for our spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being?*

5. Describe your worshiping community’s involvement in either the wider Church or geographic region.

 *Think about in and beyond Deer Isle.*

 More questions on the back

6. How do you engage in pastoral care beyond your worshiping community?

 *What do we do beyond our own walls? Ex.: Nursing Home Ministry*

7. Tell about a ministry your worshiping community has initiated in the past five years.

  *Tell a story. Why is it important?*

8. How are you preparing yourself for the Church of the future?

 *What do we see that is changing and how do we respond? Take note of broad trends and reflect on it locally.*

9. What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshiping community?

 *Say something about finances but the question is not limited to that. What does it mean to be holders of God’s gifts?*

10. What is your worshiping community’s experience of conflict? How have you addressed it?

 *We needn’t tell the whole story. Reflect on what the experience was like and where we are now.*

11. What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

 *Tell one of the stories that didn’t make the cut in question #8.*

12. In no more than four descriptors of one or two words each: Provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshiping community.

 *Mickey Jacoba suggested: write the first word as a verb and figure out what you want to modify it with.*