

Visioning Update

August 6th

As part of our ongoing visioning and discernment for the future, and due to the nature of our question from our Bishop, i.e., does Holy Cross desire to be a church plant of the diocese in Oceanside, I've had to adjust aspects of our visioning process. Donald Romanik, who had agreed to lead this process, has agreed to scale back on the long-term (5-10 year) strategic thinking that he typically does. Instead, he will now remain a strategic thinking partner with me moving forward, rather than leading the process for us as a congregation. He is happy to continue in this capacity, and we discussed a couple of innovative possibilities for how Holy Cross can function in the future. More on this to come!

The diocese will be getting a new position started soon, the Canon for Mission Resources, who will be the Rev. Jason Evans. He has already agreed to be part of a visioning and planning retreat with us later this fall. His resume is top notch, and his position is geared towards our exact sort of circumstances: missions of the diocese. With his expertise and leadership from our BC, along with other resources I hope to bring forward, Holy Cross will be well positioned to evaluate and enact a future that is reasonable for us.

What is reasonable may not be what this congregation has thought it might accomplish in the past, specifically regarding becoming a parish. While this may have been a conversation even as recently as a couple of years ago, it is obvious now that our circumstances call for a different frame of mind. It is a gift of the Spirit, I would argue, that Holy Cross was not a parish during the worst portions of our first year dealing with COVID. If we had been, I don't know where'd we be right now, as we wouldn't have had access to diocesan resources, as parishes are self-reliant in funding.

This may be saddening to some, and I understand why. However, I would posit that this is in fact freeing. Acknowledging what's not possible enables us to seek what is possible. Recognizing and naming hard realities is not necessarily fun, however, it will allow us to be more open to the Spirit and its calling for Holy Cross. We can embrace our own possibilities with Open Minds and Open Arms! I look forward to seeing that conversation through with you all. If you feel called to help Holy Cross vision that future, don't hesitate to let me know now!

In running the good race,

Rev Richard