

Visioning Update

I met with our new diocesan Canon for Mission Jason Evans before going to Wisconsin. He has been particularly helpful in my thinking about all this and will be there for at least some of our retreat in Julian (November 19-21 at Camp Stevens). For one thing, beyond resources I'm now going through, he reframed Holy Cross's situation to me as less one of a church plant and more of a church redevelopment, or congregational redevelopment. Whatever we choose to do next, it will be less church planting than a redevelopment project for this reason: we have an existing congregation that has been through consequential changes, so we are not starting from scratch, we are adapting to a new way of being, in a new space, place, and mission field. As such, we have a lot of resources at our fingertips to make a successful redevelopment really take off. We've seen this in some ways already, between the AV system, the continuity of the Altar Guild, and the congregation that still shows up on Sunday. We also know that we have a new mission field not just because of the change in location, but because of the new people we've seen coming over the past months. This is still during a global pandemic, so the fact that we are still strong in many areas, despite still grieving our former building and the shorter drive for many of us, is a clear sign that the Holy Spirit is with us on this journey.

Church redevelopment was never what any of us thought we'd be doing during my call process with you all, but the pieces are all there for Holy Cross. A faithful community, generous giving, and the ability to broadcast beyond what we had before are all keys to success for our redevelopment. We already have what we need, our quest in visioning is how we apply it to the identity we know we have, and how we might be transformed moving forward. That seems like an attainable, achievable goal for us at Holy Cross!

I also want to thank Tom Mauro and Mae Chao for offering their services as potential members of the Visioning Team along with the Bishop's Committee. I am still putting together resources for the kickoff Visioning Retreat which will be at Camp Stevens in Julian November 19th-21st. **If you are interested, please let me know!** The BC will prayerfully discern whom else we might call, as we hope to have five to seven congregants help in this conversation along with the BC.