

February 20, 2017

Parishioner Name
Parishioner Address
St. Louis, MO 63000

Dear You and You,

During the annual parish meeting on 29 January, the Discernment Team outlined a sequential path to identifying a new rector for Emmanuel. Although that path has some flexibility, two of those steps – taking a professional Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) survey and participating in Coffee and Conversation Meetings – involve parishioner participation. We need your input, thoughts, and prayers to assist us in the important process of identifying the next rector for Emmanuel.

Starting 26 February, you will be able to begin taking the CAT survey on-line from a link on the Emmanuel website. This assessment will provide a clear picture of who we are as a church and what directions are most important for our future. More detailed instructions for that process will be made available through Weekly Update emails, Sunday Bulletins and the Angelus.

After Easter, we will invite everyone to participate in Coffee and Conversation meetings where groups of ten to twelve will gather in a neighboring church member's home for dessert and coffee. These meetings will begin 17 April and continue into early May. These gatherings will give you an opportunity to provide your input on what is important to you as Emmanuel moves into the future, and will help identify the key qualities and skills we are hoping for in our next rector.

In these Coffee and Conversation Meetings our faith community will:

- ❖ Reflect on our spiritual lives and ministry together
- ❖ Discuss what we feel are Emmanuel's strengths
- ❖ Discuss where we have room for improvement, and
- ❖ Develop a sense of the future of Emmanuel

Within a few weeks you will be receiving a personal invitation in the mail from your Coffee and Conversation Meeting host. We are hoping that this experience will give everyone a chance to get to know one another a bit better and allow you to provide your input to this important decision in the life of Emmanuel. In order for our program to have the maximum benefit, we urge you to make every effort to attend.

Peace,

Bob Shillito and Ann Marie Ruhlin
2017 Discernment Team Chairs