

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania - *Revitalization Committee*

Fr. Timothy Hojnicky, Chair

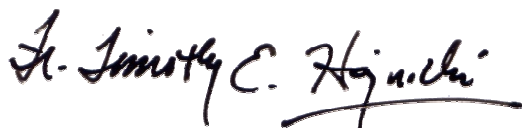
With the transfer and elevation of Fr. David Mahaffey to the Diocese of Alaska, I was appointed by His Grace, Bishop Mark as chairman of this committee. This project was started several years ago at the instigation of then His Grace, Bishop Tikhon, with the task of evaluating the decline of the diocese and the attempt to revitalize our parishes. Several meetings took place, both as a committee and with the clergy. You will also remember a presentation a few years ago at Holy Cross in Williamsport at the Assembly held there. The committee worked on a version of the Diocese of the Midwest's Parish Health Inventory Model (PHIM) and made it available online for parishes to download and use. Committee members were ready to come and assist the implementation of the program in the respective parishes.

To date, not many have taken the committee's offer, with only some parishes actually using the model on a parish level. His Grace, Bishop Mark issued a request for a monthly Parish Report for clergy to fill out to help the diocese get a better idea on what is happening on a day to day basis in the parishes. The results of this monthly report are telling. The parishes that have more services, activities, and programs seem to be healthier than parishes who just have weekend services. More needs to be done to properly address this problem.

The committee and our hierarchs stand ready to help in any way possible. I was invited to give talks on parish growth in the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of New York & New Jersey. I am ready and able to come and do the same in any diocesan parish. For this presentation, I basically share how any parish, no matter how big or small, can make small changes in the way things are done, that can make a huge difference in how parishioners participate, and how those who visit our parishes can be better welcomed. Please contact me at thoj@hotmail.com if interested.

We can turn this decline around with a combined effort, hard work, and the grace of God. Please consider seriously discussing this in your parishes. May God bless our efforts!

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Timothy C. Hojnicky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.