**What’s on Your Mind?**

***Planning for the Pierce Deanery Planning Convocation***

**We Want to Hear from You!**

**On Monday, November 30, 2015,** 7-8 pm St. Patrick will host an **informal Listening / Q&A Session** at the Parish Center to hear from you regarding the current and potential future Pastoral Leadership structure for Saint Patrick Catholic Church & School and the Pierce Deanery.

Archbishop Sartain has asked the Pierce Deanery Planning Team to develop options, **from the bottom up,** that will help Archbishop Sartain make the wisest and most informed decisions regarding priest placements in the coming year(s). This is our opportunity as parishioners to provide valuable input, from our unique perspective as parishioners, **before decisions are made.**

Pastoral leadership options under consideration by the Deanery include potential partnering and shared resources among two or three existing parishes. What these partnerships and sharing of resources might look like is the subject of ongoing conversations between affected parishes at Deanery meetings. Closing or merging smaller parishes is also an option,

but clearly not a desirable one.

The current model at St. Patrick, with a lay Pastoral Coordinator and Parish Priest(s) for sacraments is on the agenda, and one of the potential options being considered by other parishes in the Deanery and Diocese. That’s why your input is important—our input will help inform planners of whether this is a viable option to consider in the future.

Here are some key dates in the upcoming Pierce Deanery planning process:

* December 2, 2015: Pierce Deanery pastors, deacons and pastoral coordinators will discuss various pastoral options and make plans for two upcoming Convocations
* January 28, 2016: **1st Convocation** at which pastors and lay leaders (Pastoral Council, Finance Councils, Parish Staffs) will learn more about the “big picture” for Pierce Deanery and discuss the opportunities and challenges of various options the Deanery is considering for recommendation to Archbishop Sartain
* April 14, 2016: **2d Convocation** - an open convocation to parishioners from every parish in the Deanery to enter dialogue regarding the final recommendation to Archbishop Sartain