

## REGISTRATION

Registration for the Assembly is quick and easy.

- Go to [www.diobeth.org](http://www.diobeth.org)
- Note the link “Register for Diocesan events” in blue at the right side of the site.
- Click on this link, which will take you to **1-2-3 Signup**.
- Locate the date (June 11, 2011) and the Renewal Assembly: Focusing on God’s Blessings. Click on “register” at the right.
- Please read all the instructions carefully, especially if you are registering others. If you need assistance, please call Rosie Hummel at Diocesan House: 610-691-5655 x221.

There will be will be a “free will” offering to help defray the cost of the luncheon.

## PRAYER FOR THE ASSEMBLY

Almighty and ever living God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



*The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:5b-7

# Renewal Assembly II

Focusing on God’s  
Blessings

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2011

(EVE OF PENTECOST)

9:00 AM ~ 1:30 PM

## CONGREGATIONAL DISCERNMENT

[From Risks to Opportunities, R2O]

BEGINNING WITH PRAYER, the process moves to congregational discernment. This may happen in a number of ways. This discernment state is based on the assumption stated above: **Congregations must focus on their strengths, what they do well, rather than on their weaknesses.**

One possible way for congregational discernment is through “Asset Mapping.”

When the starting point is the recognition of the abundance of God’s gifts and talents, the discussion the congregation can “find an exciting, new and positive energy to break out of the negative cycles of need, dependency, and the inaction that people in congregations sometimes experience.”<sup>1</sup>

Asset Mapping not only creates a positive process, it provides clear data, relational opportunities, and, most especially, it unleashes the creative imagination of people and congregations to “what can be.” It is the shoehorn to envisioning the future.

There are many theologically grounded books to aid the parish in the mapping process. Snow’s book is quoted above and in the footnote. However, there are others, including *Holy Conversations* by Gilbert R. Rendle and Alice Mann (Alban Institute). Although this is of the “problem solving” model, it is very helpful in its structure. It gets at the process by asking three crucial questions:

- Who are we?
- What has God called us to do or be?
- Who is my neighbor?

It is important to see the discernment process as a part of the Baptismal Covenant.

<sup>1</sup>Luther K. Snow, *The Power of Asset Mapping: How Your Congregation Can Act on Its Gifts* (Alban Institute: 2004), pg. xiii.

## HOST CONGREGATIONS

Sayre, Church of the Redeemer

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Montrose, St. Paul’s Church

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Scranton, Good Shepherd

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Wilkes-Barre, St. Stephen’s Pro-Cathedral

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Hazleton, St. Peter’s

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Reading, St. Mary’s

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Whitehall, St. Stephen’s

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Hellertown, St. George’s