

**RECONFIGURATION:
BITTERSWEET REALITY**

This past Tuesday about 125 members of our parish gathered together for the 9:00 Mass celebrated by Father Petringa and concelebrated by Fathers Kearns and Brennan. The community remained together in prayer while waiting for the arrival of the Archbishop's letter. Needless to say, great relief passed through the community as we heard the good news that Saint Luke Parish will remain open. Quickly, we heard the sad news that our friends and neighbors in Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Belmont and Sacred Heart Parish, Watertown would suffer the loss of their parishes.

For several years now, the parishes of Belmont and Watertown have been working together in an increasing spirit of cooperation and collaboration, never more so than during this past year. Bonds of connection have deepened through our worshipping and working together. Now is the time for us to work even harder to reach out our hands in friendship and welcome to our brothers and sisters. We must offer listening ears and compassionate hearts to receive the pain of their loss and to do all in our power to provide a place of worship and community where they will not only be welcome; but also, their gifts and talents will be a vital part of the new community which we must become. In the weeks of transition that lie ahead, we will be inviting you to come to coffee hours after Mass and to engage in other ways in which we can meet and greet possible newcomers. We would ask you to make a concerted effort to notice faces that are less familiar and to extend yourself to those people. It will take all of us working together to reconfigure the church of Belmont and Watertown. Thank you for your ongoing spirit of welcome!