



Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church

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Dear Transfiguration Family, Christ is in our midst!

I'd like to take this opportunity to briefly inform you about the Thriving Congregations Initiative (TCI), an optional parish program made possible by a grant to the Metropolis of Boston from the Eli Lilly Foundation (a pharmaceutical company). The TCI is a five-year self-study wherein participating parishes gather as much information (historical, demographical, financial, ministerial, etc.) about themselves as they can to better understand who they were in the beginning, who they are now, and who they would like to be in the future. In other words, this initiative is designed to help a parish make future decisions that may differ from past decisions based on changing factors over the time in hopes that a parish will begin to "thrive" instead of merely "survive." And, once a parish identifies new ideas to move them forward into the future, there are several million dollars available to the participating parishes in the form of microgrants to help them get their new ideas and initiatives off the ground.

We are several months into the self-study now and have a steering TCI committee led by Mary Dukakis-Piper, our TCI "Champion." We hope to grow this group over time to include each demographic of our parish so that when it comes time to make future decisions and start new programs, we will have an accurate representation of our parish helping to make relevant, exciting, and engaging new ministries. This last July, we submitted our first two microgrant request: 1) the first one is to help us restart our youth and young adult ministry by having a gathering either here or at the MBC camp with the youth and young adults; 2) and the second is for a program we call Thanksgiving on the Common, for outreach to our local community here in the Acre of Lowell. Both grants are for \$2500 which, if received, will aid in our post-pandemic efforts to reignite our parish life.

For further information, or, if you'd like to be a part of this exciting initiative to help our parish thrive, please contact Mary Piper or Fr. Gregory.

With love in Christ,

Fr. Gregory Floor