

Tuesday, September 19, 2017 was a very special day at St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church in Old Bridge, one that welcomed a new and vital ministry that will serve the entire community! Two years ago, a group of people approached the Pastor, Rev. John C. Grimes, asking for dedicated space in which to meet. **Club Serenity**, is a non-profit 501(C)(3) charitable organization who share the **12 Steps of Recovery** practice, and promote fellowship for anyone seeking recovery. They provide a welcoming and friendly environment for individuals and their families that support alcohol and substance abuse independence. Although supportive of their work, the pastor recognized that for **Club Serenity** to be successful, they would require consistency and dedicated space. Fr. Grimes was unable, at that time, to fulfill this need as St. Ambrose campus is busy, rooms are reserved, and space is limited. At that point, we had little options.....but, Fr. Grimes believed there would be a solution!

St. Ambrose is happy to announce that through the support of the Pastor and our Bishop, **Club Serenity** will be meeting in the lower level of our Parish Business Office. After this area is renovated to include two meeting rooms, bathrooms, a small kitchen, and handicap accessible ramps, **Club Serenity** will have a dedicated space for their growing membership. Through the advice and expertise of the Old Bridge Business Alliance, through the support of Mary Owen Henry, through the generosity of Mr. George Scharpf, Trustee of St. Amboy Bank, and through the many private donations, work will begin!

Club Serenity started in 2015, with Board Members Erin Kelleher, William Lindenmuth, Roy Steffenagel, John Alvarez, and John Abair, who recognize that addiction has become an epidemic in our families, in our schools, and in our community. Along with a membership of over 70 people, **Club Serenity** can personally identify with the need for recovery and many members have experienced the loss of a child or a loved one, due to addiction. As a group, **Club Serenity** will meet regularly and hopes to align their message and their work with groups such as Wellspring Center for Prevention, and the Mental Health Association in New Jersey, Inc. **Club Serenity** looks forward to hosting guest speakers to continue to educate the community on wellness and helping others one day at a time.

As a Catholic Church and School in Old Bridge, St. Ambrose provides multiple levels of service to the needy and the poor, through various ministries and organizations that collect, donate, provide, and educate the entire community, not just those members that attend Mass or are educated in our Elementary School and Public School Religious Education Program for over 50 years. The drug and alcohol scourge in our neighborhood is a monumental concern to our faithful, to our congregation, and to all residents of Old Bridge. As Jesus personally tells us, the measure by which you measure others will be measured back to you. After Jesus concluded teaching in the parable of the Good Samaritan, his exact words at the end of the story were "go and do likewise" (*Luke 10:25-37*).

If you, a friend, or a member of your family is interested in the work of **Club Serenity**, or if you would care to support its' mission, please call 732 309-4144, or 908-930-1374, or you can reach them at clubserenity@comcast.net. All donations are fully tax deductible.