

PARISH TOWN MEETING
September 12 & 13, 2009

The first State of the Parish Town Hall Meetings were a great success! Thank you for sharing your candid thoughts and insightful comments. All of your Pastoral Advisory Council (PAC) members were there and enjoyed meeting you. We received some wonderful feedback and input from everyone.

At the meetings we focused on what PAC does. So, in case you had to miss, please know that *we represent you*, the people and collective voices of our parish. We serve as a source of dialogue, counsel and support for the Pastor and recommend quality improvements in parish life. We bring the parish Mission to life.

At each State of the Parish session we also talked about the parish staff and volunteer structures, provided a parish pastoral update and a parish financial update. The best part however was that we were provided with really beneficial suggestions to help improve the faith life of our parish. Even better, we were given a number of ideas that we will integrate into a five year Pastoral Plan for the parish. Here is a sampling:

Communications: increase ways to talk to PAC and others. PAC is setting up a parish email and has a mail box in the parish work room area. We have also begun the work to study and implement a Communication Commission and we are working on a PAC web link as well.

Financials and Budget: per your suggestions, watch the bulletin for new, easier to understand ways of reporting our finances.

Faith Formation: start a bible study and include one session in the evening. This has already been implemented since the meeting. I hope you've attended one of the sessions.

Dreams and Visions: watch for more information about specific welcoming events like the parish picnic and continuing adult faith formation programs like retreats.

Vocations: Write a seminarian and say thanks. Watch for a bulletin announcement with the web link for the Seminarian blog address.

If you attended any of the sessions and have additional ideas that you would like to share, please either join us for a PAC meeting (meetings are announced in the bulleting each month), or just talk to any one of your PAC members. If you missed the meeting but would like us to have your input, we are very interested in hearing from you. Your thoughts will be very helpful with writing the new five year plan for the parish.

Thanks to all who helped make this first year's presentations and discussions so fruitful. There are plans to provide child care for next year's sessions. We encourage you to be there.

Marc S. Martens
President of your Pastoral Advisory Council

