

Parish Pastoral Council

By Vandy Nachazel

I would like to thank all the people who worked so hard to arrange, prepare, serve, and entertain at the Madrigal Dinner. The dinner and entertainment combined for a wonderful evening. In addition, the Madrigal Dinner was an important fundraiser toward the GiFT Campaign.

Very quickly now, we will be accepting nominations for new members of the Parish Pastoral Council. All nominations should be submitted by the third Sunday of February (2/15/09). Who is eligible? Any registered parishioner in full communion with the Church who is 18 years old or older is eligible. Voting for new members will be completed by the last Sunday of April (4/26/09), and new members will assume their offices at the June meeting.

Your Parish Pastoral Council meets once a month, typically at 7:00 PM on a weekday evening. Their duty is to recommend and implement policy, in consultation with the pastor, for the entire parish community based upon the Mission of the Parish. In addition they should offer the parish a vision for the future; i.e. general direction, prioritize goals/objectives, and formulate long/short range goals with all sharing in the decision making process. Finally, they share in the missions of the parish, the diocese, and the universal Church.

This is YOUR Parish Pastoral Council and we need a broad cross section of parishioners to help our parish to meet the needs of our parishioners. Please consider nominating yourself or others that you feel can help us to move forward.

PPC Administration Commission

By Jack Siersma

During the first half of the church fiscal year, Notre Dame parish expenditures are approximately on budget; but income (collections) are significantly below budget. Wherever possible, spending is being deferred or eliminated in an effort to bring parish finances into balance. With the beginning of a new calendar year, this is a good time for all of us to review our contributions of time, talent, and funds as we try to maintain a vigorous parish operation in difficult economic times.

The parish is blessed with many volunteers who maintain facilities, equipment, and the cleanliness of our facilities at minimal cost. As warm weather nears, more volunteers will be needed to help with grounds maintenance, etc. if current income trends continue. Look for opportunities to lend a hand with the tasks that will be accomplished by volunteers.

Cleaning Committee: The cleaning volunteers, led by Barbara and Roger Violette, are to be commended for their dedication and the excellent job they are doing. All of us who use the parish facilities can help them by disposing of our discards properly and leaving our space uncluttered. Many thanks to this team.

Building Committee: Plans have been revised to reduce the initial cost of our new facility construction project by creating a two-phase building project. The initial phase would provide for the entire education wing and the narthex then the parish hall. If approved by the parish and the Finance Committee, the two-phase project will be submitted for Diocesan approval immediately. Construction could commence as early as this spring.

Finance Committee: As mentioned, our parish budget is off balance due to an income shortfall of approximately \$10,000 through the first half of the fiscal year. The down economy has obviously caused a

reduction in offering contributions. As with your own personal finances, the parish cannot operate in the red. Steps are already underway to curtail expenditures where possible.

Maintenance (Tuesday work crew): The crew has been reduced to two or three participants, typically; but work has continued on regular maintenance and replacement tasks. Most recently, the parish hall lighting has been updated via cleaning and replacement of degraded or failed fluorescent tubes and ballasts.

The heating and air conditioning unit filters have been cleaned and replaced to restore full air flow. While doing so, it was noted that the exhaust stacks were disconnected and literally falling apart. The quote for repair and replacement was almost \$500.00. The volunteer work crew completed the job with a saving of over \$400.00. Many thanks go to Bob Straub for volunteering his time and much of the needed material. Work is continuing on repairs and replacements needed on the accordion walls in the parish hall. More help will be needed to support this crew as the warm weather season nears. Please contact Jack Siersma at 787-9141 if you can help.

Parish Cleaning Committee

By Barbara Violette

On Dec. 23 a group of people came and helped to clean the church and hall for Christmas. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication. We are still looking for volunteers to help with the weekly cleaning groups. If you are interested, call Barbara 639-0090.

Our annual major cleaning effort will take place the morning of April 2 at 9 a.m. We will clean all the carpets in the church and get our parish ready for the Easter Season. Anyone may participate, and all are welcome to join us in the parish hall.