

PPC Administration Committee

By Jack Siersma

Many thanks to Notre Dame parishioners who have been generous with their time, talent, and resources this past year and in this new year as well. We have all seen the start of our new education building which should be moving rapidly toward completion as the weather becomes better for the builders. Thanks for the extra effort and financial support in these difficult economic times.

Our focus on volunteerism will continue this year as we continue to maintain facilities and grounds using primarily volunteer help. The grounds maintenance will be aided by the new commercial grade mowing machine we were able to acquire early this year. We hope to be able to train several volunteers in its operation since it will definitely expedite weekly mowing.

The all-volunteer facilities maintenance crew (Tuesday work crew) has grown to include five regulars and several who help when they can. The Finance Committee has agreed to help develop a "reserve" to cover "major breakdown/replacement" costs that could be beyond the limit of our volunteer capabilities. This is a necessary step as most of our facilities are aging.

This Lenten season is a good time to take stock of what we are doing individually to support our parish and the parish community. Where and how should we be helping out?

PPC Communications Committee Notre Dame Census 2010

By Phil Galic

There are approximately 450 families listed in Notre Dame's parish register at the present time. Starting this spring, Notre Dame will begin conducting a census of all registered parish families. The project will be organized and coordinated by the Communications Committee. It is our plan to visit each parish family (where possible) to verify that our roster contains complete and accurate information regarding each family member. Initial plans call for teams of 2 or 3 persons to visit parishioners' homes. Visits will be scheduled both during the day and in the evening in accordance with each family's availability.

This will be a lengthy process, and volunteers will be recruited to enable us to complete the census within a reasonable period of time. A schedule will be prepared, and each family will be contacted in advance of the visit. We ask for your full cooperation in this endeavor. The accuracy of our family records will depend entirely upon full participation of each family. Further details will appear in the weekly bulletins as plans are finalized and visitation schedules are prepared.

Facilities Expansion Update

By Bud Noe

As we head into spring, we can all see that things are really beginning to take shape with our new parish multipurpose facility. The change in weather has allowed our builder to make some significant gains. In the last two weeks, we have had constant work from all of the required trades doing the construction. They are roughing in the plumbing, running conduit and mounting switch boxes, finishing up the sheet metal work, and working daily on getting the roof closed in and ready for the shingles. If you have seen the back of the building, you can see that the brick layers are well underway.

If you have been wondering why the brick is not the same as the Church, it is not supposed to be. The idea is to achieve a nice blend but not overpower the Church. After much discussion with the architect, it was decided to use standard brick vs. the Roman. They felt that Roman brick on a long single floor structure tends to make it look lower (or squatted) and would not yield the appearance we wanted.

Our contractor, Burke-Ailey, is still determined to finish in the second half of May. We may have to wait until June because of the bad weather we experienced in January and February, but we'll see how they get along.

When the building is complete, we will have two "parish projects", or opportunities. One is how we decorate our new narthex and the other is how we landscape the facilities (the contract we have is for the standard seeding or sod as required). If you have expertise in either area, please let us know if you would like to be involved in the finish appearance of your new building.

Hispanic Ministry

By Alma Vazquez

The warm weather is coming! Well I hope... Have you ever heard about the Hispanic community celebrating a "Quinceañera"?

We start the celebration with a Mass. The Quinceañera offers her youth to God and prays to our Virgin Mary to help and guide her to be a good woman.

The Quinceañera is a coming of age for girls celebrated in many Latin American countries, Mexico, and among Latino immigrants. It is usually celebrated on a girl's fifteenth birthday and can range from a party composed primarily of family and close friends to elaborately arranged balls. It is somewhat similar to the sweet 16 party, but tends to be more formally organized. It can also be seen as similar to the bat mitzvah since the girl is officially a young woman after its celebration. There will be some Quinceañeras this year starting with Claudia Aguilera on April 10 at 12:00 p.m. No invitation required to this or any other Quinceañera, just join us!