

Transition Team: Progress Report May 25, 2006

The Transition Team formed in January 2006 with two basic purposes: 1) *undertaking the processes associated with closing parishes* and 2) *beginning the formation of a single parish*. The team followed the pastoral planning recommendations approved by the bishop last year.

- ◆ Celebratory liturgies followed by receptions marked the closings of St. Augustine and Our Lady of Good Counsel churches with grace and dignity during the Easter season.
- ◆ Sacred artwork, artifacts and the interior / exterior worship spaces for each faith community were inventoried and / or photographed. An archive room, in progress at St. Monica, preserves these images and the documents recording the individual parish histories.
- ◆ The sacred artifacts, now moved to the St. Monica campus, will be placed either in St. Monica Church, within the local Diocese or in Catholic faith communities elsewhere.
- ◆ Surplus non-religious items will be sold at auction at St. Monica (June 22-25, 2006).
- ◆ Reporting on the sale of the buildings and related sacred items awaits processing by the realtors and attorneys. The financial summary will be made available to parishioners.

To start the unified parish the Transition Team prioritized jobs in three ways: *to complete*; *to initiate* and *to forward* to the new Parish Pastoral Council. Along with Father Ray, the team:

- ◆ Commenced the first unified parish weekend liturgies at St. Monica on February 3rd-4th with assistance from the Liturgy Committee. Emmanuel Church of the Deaf began its weekend signed Mass at St. Monica on May 7th. Ss. Peter and Paul parishioners shared in Lenten and Easter Season services and activities.
- ◆ Met the Bishop's guidelines regarding weekend Masses [Saturday afternoon at St. Monica; two at St. Monica on Sunday (one signed); one at Ss. Peter & Paul on Sunday morning].
- ◆ Set the groundwork for convening a unified parish Finance Council and a Buildings group.
- ◆ Drafted a new Parish Pastoral Council model meeting the needs of a parish representing *diverse backgrounds*, devoted to a *vibrant spirituality* and *servicing neighborhood needs*. The transition team began the process of seating a new parish pastoral council.
- ◆ Initiated Open Parish Forums to answer questions, get feedback and gather new ideas.
- ◆ Began the process of restarting parish ministries following the new parish council model.
- ◆ Initiated engaging parishioners in choosing a name for the unified parish.
- ◆ Started process for moving towards a single unified parish bulletin.
- ◆ Developed a new unified parish Directory listing information gathered from the February 2006 tri-fold parishioner involvement brochures and previous faith community directories.