



May 2009
Vol. 4, Issue 2

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St. Peter's Long Range Plan Update

2009: The Year of Charity and Justice Continues

The committees of the Charity and Justice Commission started 2009 with a bang! National Migration Week marked the start of the Year of Charity and Justice at St. Peter's. On Immigration Sunday, January 4, 2009 the Community Builders hosted fellowship after Masses and the Social Justice Committee talked with parishioners about the homily and their experiences with immigration. National Migration Week continued with a talk by Fr. Jose Santiago from Holy Rosary Parish in Minneapolis. Speaking on January 7th, he talked about his work on behalf of the immigrants of his parish, the challenges they face, and how their faith sustains them while enriching the parish.

On January 8th, members of Social Justice Committees from St. Peter's, St. Richard's, Nativity, St. Edward's, and Christ the King met with Rep. Paul Thissen at St. Peter's. Working with the Office of Social Justice (OSJ), they delivered the message that even though the state of Minnesota is facing a budget deficit, the needs of the poor and vulnerable still must be adequately addressed. As Chair of the House and Human Services Committee, they asked Rep. Thissen to work on holding cuts to Health and Human Services to a minimum. This group hopes to have an ongoing dialogue with our legislator to address the needs of the poor and vulnerable.

In keeping with the theme of economic justice at the state capital, the St. Peter's Social Justice Committee hosted the February 19th OSJ Sowers of Justice Assembly. Parishioners from around the Archdiocese came to hear speakers from the Dorothy Day Center and Sharing and Caring Hands talk about how proposed cuts to the Minnesota budget

will impact the poor and vulnerable in these tough economic times and how we can help.

Charity efforts so far this year have focused on Lenten giving. The Archdiocesan wide H2O Project asks that we drink water instead of other beverages for 2 weeks. The money saved should be sent to the Center for Mission for our Global Solidarity Partners in Kenya. Parishioners have also been asked for donations to VEAP and to help with Easter baskets on March 29th.

In the coming months the committees of Charity and Justice Commission look forward to several events. Some highlights include a speaker on the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops pastoral on the Challenge to Peace, and the Kitchen Kits drive for victims of domestic abuse starting new lives and new homes. Parishioners should also look for information on issues facing the Minnesota and U.S. legislatures as well as the inside story of groups doing charity and justice work at St. Peter's. Based on available space, thoughtful quotes on charity and justice will continue to appear in the bulletin.

Throughout this year of Charity and Justice we look forward to the parish's continued involvement and for prayers for a successful year. To learn more, contact Joan Schickert by leaving a message at the parish office.

Music Ministry

St. Augustine wrote that all who sing, pray twice

Welcomes all people

Because music can reach and affect all ages and ethnic groups, music for St. Peter's Masses is selected carefully and lovingly, with a variety of styles in mind. The Mass of the Immigrants that was sung during this past Lent combined the Spanish and English languages, and featured a Spanish rhythm and beat.

The choice of music at our Masses, and the style in which it is performed, can serve to welcome all—by offering us traditional hymns and carols that we are already familiar with, and by exposing us to new songs that may prove inspirational.

Cherishes the Eucharist

When we participate musically, we proclaim God's Word through Scripture in song. Those who offer their musical talents help create an environment for prayer and fellowship at Mass and other celebrations. The music selected and sung in church can set a mood for the whole congregation—prayerful, joyous, sorrowful. Music, and the emotions that it creates, can significantly contribute to our congregation's cherishing of the Eucharist and celebration of Mass.

Fosters Faith Formation for all

Last summer, our contemporary choir members helped evangelize our faith by singing religious songs at Richfield's Cat-tail Days, a popular annual community event. After performing, they also helped staff a booth set up to attract new membership and provide information about all programs offered at St. Peter's parish.

Serves our members in justice and charity

Music can help promote the idea of peace on earth and good will toward all. It can remind us that others are struggling or are in pain. It can even motivate renewed resolution to better serve the needy or the oppressed.

Last December, a caroling group was organized to sing for shut-ins and elderly at local nursing homes, and was very warmly received.

How can I participate?

Have you ever considered joining the St. Peter's Music Ministry? If so, now's the time! There are no try-outs necessary, just a love for music. Whether you enjoy singing in a large group with a choir, want to lead singing, or wish to share your instrumental talent, St. Peter's needs you!

Please review our opportunities to find a

fit that works best for you. Then contact Nancy Johanns, our Music Minister, at 612-866-5089 or nancy@btcsmn.org.

- * Our adult and contemporary choirs boast singers from the eighth grade to senior citizen.
- * Currently, we enjoy the instrumental sounds of flute, guitar, bass, saxophone and drummer. Violins and trumpets are brought in to aggrandize the celebrations at Easter and Christmas.
- * Cantors lead the congregation in singing, either alone or paired with others.
- * Our Easter and Christmas choirs are for all ages, and allow St. Peter's parishioners the opportunity to participate without a year-long commitment.

Fostering Faith Formation

Angie Ritter, our Faith Formation Coordinator, again met with the Parish Pastoral Council to review some of the activities since her last report. While she is focused on fostering faith formation, many of those activities also address welcoming all and charity and justice, three tenets of our parish mission statement. For example, the recently completed Alpha program both welcomed all and fostered faith formation. A youth trip to Feed My Starving Children both fostered faith formation and taught serving with charity and justice.

Other recent activities include a Confirmation retreat at Camp Salie, the Works of Mercy project for family faith formation, and preliminary planning for a possible mission trip.

As Angie progressed through her report it became evident that the wonderful activities that were already occurring are still in place and growing. She expressed a strong desire that these programs grow and further develop. However, to accomplish that goal more volunteers are needed. Both parents and non parents alike are welcome. If you have even a little time available and if you are interested in helping St. Peter's youth, either in the youth ministry or catechetical programs, please contact Angie Ritter in

Stewardship Weekend

May 3, 2009

It's not "when you give, God will reward you." It is not that God rewards your giving. The reward is giving. As you give, you share God's grace. The act of giving is both a sign and an event of the generosity of God in our lives. In this sense the act of giving is the sharing of God's grace. As you give you discover the deeper resources for giving with which God has blessed you.

*-Ann Garland
Business Administrator*

the parish office. Please prayerfully consider whether you are being called to assist in this ministry.

Sanctuary Redesign Complete

St. Peter's celebrated the completion of our re-designed sanctuary on Saturday, February 28, 2009, with Archbishop Nienstedt presiding at Mass. Our new altar was consecrated, and we enjoyed a delicious dinner in a packed social hall.

In our March 1, 2009, bulletin, Fr. Tony thanked all those involved in this important project. After the many names were given of those who contributed their time, talent, finances and energy to this project, he concluded by writing:

"... but I think that we should all be grateful first and foremost for the Holy Spirit leading us both in our discernment and our work to complete this project. I truly believe that the Holy Spirit was guiding us every step of the way. The project did not turn out the way any one person would have imagined it, myself included. However, as a community of faith, we reached our goal through the Holy Spirit's grace and our prayers and cooperation with that grace."