

# Pope John Post

## CAMPUS PLANNING COMMITTEE - TOWN HALL MEETING

By Msgr. Frecker

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, our parish community gathered to reflect on a very important step in the development of our new parish. After coffee and doughnuts were served, the parish listened to a presentation concerning the work and findings of the Campus Planning Committee. The presentation was as follows:

In May of 2001, the Campus Planning Committee was formed. Members included: Drew Sanderell and Jim Gerkin (Co-Chairs), Msgr. Frecker (Pastor), Regina Hrytzik (Administrative Asst.), Helmut Naunheimer (Development Consultant), Bob Deibel (Diocesan Superintendent of Buildings), Peig Shackelford (Parish Council President), Steve Lukezich (Secretary), Larry Felts, Joe Gantner, Sharon Myers, Laura Miller, and Jim Prinzler. The committee began to look at how the 38 acres owned by the Diocese of Columbus at the intersection of St. Rt. 674 and Lithopolis Rd. could be developed, to provide the physical facilities for both the short term and long term needs of our Parish.

The committee started by trying to get a feel for the hopes, dreams, expectations, and desires of our parishioners. Three rounds of surveys were conducted: a) a personal interview of 21 persons who were leaders of parish ministries, b) a personal interview of

a 10% random sample of our parishioners, and c) a written survey of all registered parishioners. The survey results showed an outstanding level of satisfaction with the current ministries and programs being offered here at Pope John XXIII. Although there were many individual suggestions for improvements, there was no consistent program need that surfaced repeatedly. The primary need expressed was the obvious need for our own physical facilities. The quality of

the worship space was of the highest priority. Other priorities included: religious education space, meeting space, offices for staff, kitchen/social hall, and gathering space (adjacent to worship). The responses to the funding questions were also very encouraging. The percent of participation, and the level of giving, indicated by the typical respondent were above average. It was estimated from these results, that our Parish could expect to raise \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 over a four-year capital campaign.

The committee also visited several other parishes in the Diocese to look at land usage issues, and how various functions were housed in particular types of spaces. The other main area of the committees' information gathering was the demographic study. Over the past year, our Parish has grown 52%. This growth will continue in two waves. First, is the number of Catholics already living in

our parish boundaries, but not registered in our Parish yet. This alone could account for a 92% growth in the Parish. The second wave is the number of Catholics moving into the parish area, which represents 350% growth by the year 2025. At that time, we could have

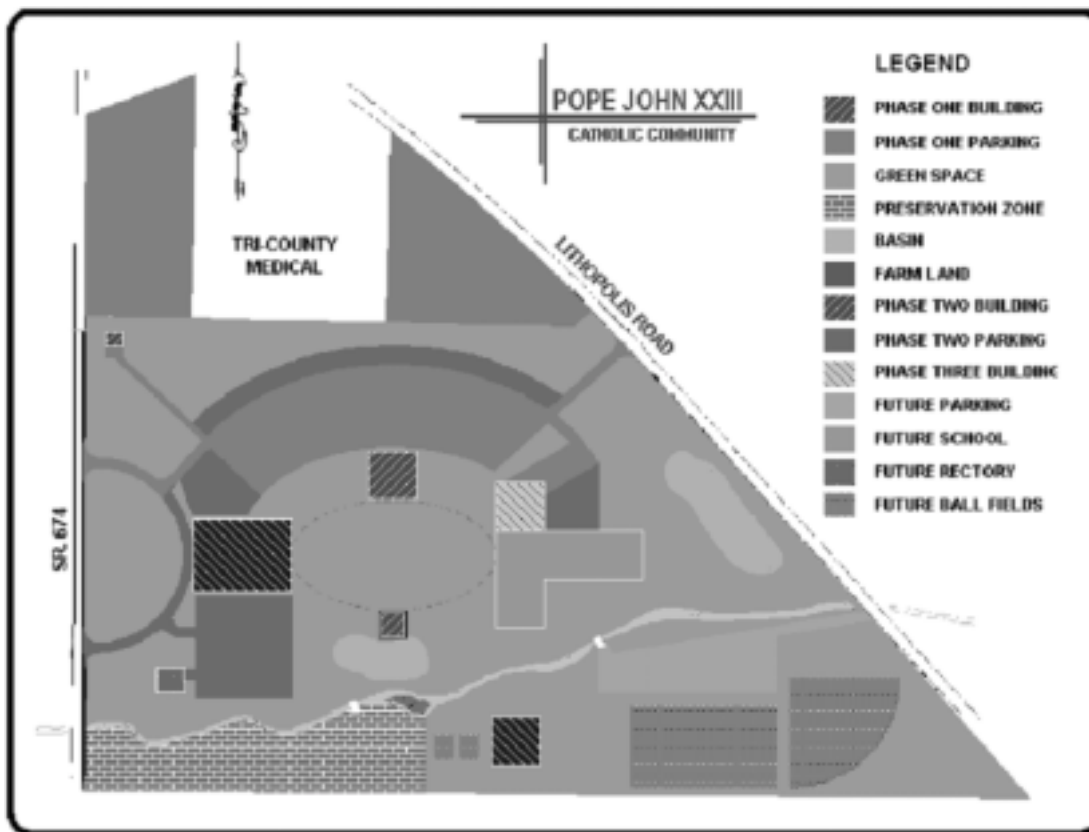


around 2000 registered households in Pope John XXIII Parish.

From all of this study the following recommendations were presented:

Facilities need to be constructed in a phase-by-phase plan to address present and future needs. Three specific phases were presented, but campus development beyond phase three was also considered, especially concerning land usage.

Phase One would include a two-story, multipurpose building with a walkout lower level. This facility would house an exclusive worship area, offices, religious education space, and social hall. The building would be positioned along the natural contour of the land at the northeast corner of the current pasture field. The building would be accessed off both St. Rt. 674, and Lithopolis Rd., with parking north of the building. Phase One would also include a storage building/garage,



and outdoor area/shelter house for parish picnics. The area north of the creek would be landscaped, and the large area on the east side of the land south of the creek would continue to be leased for farming, while the west side would be developed as a natural preservation area. Estimated cost for Phases One is \$1,750,000.

Phase Two would include a free-stand permanent Church building, positioned on the west side of the property, facing St. Rt. 674. The phase one building would be repurposed to expand social hall, education space, and office space. Parking would be expanded, the shelter house would be converted into an outdoor shrine area, and the picnic area would be moved to the area south of the creek on the east side. A courtyard would be developed between the phase one building, the Church, and the shrine area. Landscaping and green space development would continue.

Phase Tree would include a free-standing education building, positioned on the east side of the courtyard, built up to code for an all-

day school, and located so as to become part of a possible future Elementary School.

The phase one building would be repurposed to further expand social hall and office space.

Further information, including maps of all three phases and a possible phase four and beyond map, is available on our parish internet web site: [www.popejohnxxiiiparish.com](http://www.popejohnxxiiiparish.com). Just click on **Campus Plan**.

After the Presentation, there was a short break. A handout was distributed, which contained a brief summary of the presentation, a phase three map, and a response form. After parishioners had a chance to chat, and stretch their legs, we re-



convened for questions, and comments. The parishioners were very excited about the presentation and supportive of the proposals.

The response forms turned in showed an unbelievably high level of acceptance and approval of the plan. All were also truly impressed by the amount of work done by the Campus Planning Committee, and by the professional way in which this work was carried out and presented.

These Town Hall Meetings are an important part of the communication plan for our Parish. All parishioners need to make a special effort to attend. So, if you missed this one, we hope you will be present for the future ones. Our Building

Planning Committee will need your feedback too.



# MARDI GRAS PARTY

By Tom and Jeanne Tooill

The second Annual Mardi Gras Party was a huge success. It was held Saturday evening, February 9, at the Berwick Party House. It was an evening full of fun and entertainment. Even the weather was on our side, no rain, or snow. The final count was 172 parishioners in attendance. It looked like almost everyone was able to attend; the tables were full and the conversation and laughter was continual. It was a great opportunity to speak with friends you only see once a week, and even to meet new people. There



was something for everyone. When you walked into the room, you knew you were in for a treat. The tables were all decorated with confetti, Mardi Gras necklaces and plastic coins. You just knew you were in for a real treat.



The evening started out with a scavenger hunt. Everyone had a list of questions and had to keep asking different people until they got the correct answers. At the end of the evening, the person, or persons, with the most correct answers won a prize. We had several lucky winners.



There was also a table full of gift bags and boxes along the front wall. It turned out that these were Door Prizes that had been donated by parishioners and local businesses. These prizes were given out all evening. You never knew when Monsignor would put on a Mardi Gras mask, pick up the microphone, and start calling out ticket numbers. Just about everyone went home with a prize.

The fun just kept going. There was also music and dancing. Pete Tooill, brother of parishioner Tom Tooill, volunteered to provide his DJ expertise and equipment. As usual, he came through with flying colors. He really kept things moving. The evening was spent listening to a wide variety of music, from "oldies" to country and even some "modern" music. He even managed to get quite a few brave souls up for the "Electric Slide" and "The Twist." I don't think the dance floor was empty more than once or twice. It was fun both to dance and to watch the dancing.

The food was delicious. There were meatballs, fried mushrooms, chicken wings, veggie trays and much more. Soft drinks, coffee, and tea were provided. At the end of the evening,

there was a table full of cookies and other desserts. The desserts didn't last long. You would be amazed at how many people have a sweet tooth (me included). Obviously, this parish has some wonderful bakers, as all of these desserts were provided by them.



If you didn't get the opportunity to attend, you missed a wonderful evening full of good food, fun, and fellowship. Please plan to attend next year; it can only get better as our parish continues to grow.



**ANONYMOUS REPORTER  
INTERVIEWS  
TERRY MOORE**

Hi, Terry. I'm the anonymous reporter for our parish. I spoke to you on the phone about parish interviews and how we would like to know more about you. Can we start by asking you some questions?

**Terry:** Sure, reporter. No problem. Where do you want to begin?

Let's start with a couple of easy ones, such as, how long have you lived in the area? What made you want to join the new parish?

**Terry:** We will have lived here 17 years in June. Why I wanted to join the new parish? I always liked church involvement. I like being around people who enjoy serving the church, and I wanted to do more.

And at Pope John XXIII, have you been able to do more?

**Terry:** Yes. God gave us all talents. Sometimes we don't always know what these are until we try something new.

Is there something new that you have tried at Pope John XXIII?

**Terry:** Yes, RCIA. My interest in RCIA more than likely has its basis in the small group faith sharing experience. In small group, we focus usually on Scripture, and I gained a deeper understanding of the Scripture readings. In RCIA, the candidates share their perspectives, their understanding of the Scripture readings and their faith. I enjoy this a lot. In RCIA, I feel involved and a strong sense of community. In any parish, and particularly in a new parish, there's something for every one to do. No experience needed--just a willing heart and a little training.

What a good lead-in for my next question, Terry, which is, what would you say to new parishioners?



**Terry and Patsy Moore**

**Terry:** I'd say—jump in. Get involved. It's great fun too, and you'll feel satisfied. Pick something and just jump in.

How would you finish this sentence? "What I like best about Pope John XXIII is...."

**Terry:** The w-h-o-l-e thing! Just the whole thing!

Well, that covers that! Don't hold anything back, Terry. (Some laughter.) Want to tell me something about your family?

**Terry:** Been married to Patsy, the love of my life, for 32 years. We have three (3) adult children, all married. Wendy, 31, is a member of Seton; Andy, 28, attends and ushers at the Lutheran church with his wife, Heather; Lori, 26, belongs to St. Philip where her son is a student. We have five (5) grandsons ranging in age from seven (7) to one year, and Patsy has a standing bounty out for a granddaughter.

Whew! Am I impressed! Are your children involved in their respective churches?

**Terry:** Yes, Andy ushers; Lori runs bingo at St. Philip; and Wendy's husband, who is not catholic, made the Easter candle stand and the book holder for our parish.

Very nice! What is your son-in-law's name?

**Terry:** His name is Ed, and he loves working with wood. He wanted to make those items for our parish. He jokes his woodworking just may get

his foot into heaven's door. (Here, Terry smiles, amused).

Sounds like a good guy. What would you say about your work?

**Terry:** Patsy and I own Murray's Tool Rental on the corner of Main and James. We rent equipment to businesses and residences and we carry just about anything you would need. If we don't have it, we'll guide you where you can.

Has this warm winter helped or hurt business?

**Terry:** Mostly helped. But we have slowed down because of the economy.

We'll have to make up for it during spring and into the mid-year. In the fall, we usually experience resurgence and typically, business stays steady through December.

What kinds of things do you and Patsy do for fun?

**Terry:** Patsy and I are card players, and I like to golf. That's something I want to do more of when I retire.

Retire? Really retire?

**Terry:** Yes, as in, no-office-in-the-store-retire. Our daughter, son, and son-in-law all work in the store, and they handle business very well. Maybe I'll work a couple more years. I'm trying to cut back now.

Is there a dynasty in the making?

**Terry:** Nodding a 'yes', and smiling. Our empire is Main and James.

And your youngest daughter? Can't leave her out.

**Terry:** Lori is Head Teller with Huntington Bank. Did I mention, Reporter, Patsy also likes to shop, play games with the kids—mostly board games, and sew.

I know she likes to sew because she is on the Art and Environment Commission and we have all seen

and appreciated the handiwork of that Commission. You are involved with many ministries in the parish, so let's try this. I will name the ministry, and you say the first thing that comes to mind.

Reporter:

Choir.....Fun

RCIA.....Fulfilled

Parish Council .Responsibility

Small Group ....Umm. I'll have to think about this one. Come back to this, ok?

Certainly. Do you have a 'Walter Mitty' fantasy, Terry?

**Terry:** You mean, like in *another life*? (I nod yes.) Terry chuckles. Well, either I would want to do something musically, or be on stage. Sing, dance, or play an instrument. (Terry and I both smile. I imagine Terry with his red-hot sassy sax as a '70's pop star sensation! His smile, however, gives nothing away.)

Does this explain why you are in the choir?

**Terry:** The choir is my reality. (Here, he smiles, almost wistfully).

Before we move on, Terry, let's finish up on the ministries. Small groups. What comes to mind?

**Terry:** Learning experience. My mother used to say you don't learn anything when you're talking. In small groups, we learn from one another.

Since you do so well finishing sentences, try this one. "Something most people may not know about me is...."

**Terry:** My love for the elderly, the senior citizens. If I were not at the store, I'd be with the elderly. There's something valuable about being with them. I like to push their wheel chairs, exchange a word or two with them, just to let them know

I am there, even if I can be with only one person a day.

The world sorely needs such tenderness. Why the elderly?

**Terry:** My grandpa. He was very lonely. He was in the hospital for a very long time, and his wife, my grandma, came to live with mom and our family, so grandma wasn't lonely. Loneliness is a real affliction for the elderly, and my grandpa was lonely.

Was he your maternal or paternal grandfather? How old were you when he died?

**Terry:** He was my mom's dad, and I was already married when he died, so I was about 25.

You were very close to your grandpa?

**Terry:** Yes. Grandpa had a little shop and my two (2) younger brothers and I would go over there and he would have boards and nails and hammers and show us how to drive a nail. Mostly, we ended up with sore thumbs.

Other special memories?

**Terry:** Grandpa made a miniature golf course in the back yard and he used peanut cans, you know, "Planter's Peanuts" for the holes. He would have putters and golf balls always in the corner for us to use. Grandpa was a railroader. He guarded the treasury in the caboose of the train. (Here, Terry gets up and points to his grandpa's pocket watch that is framed and hanging on the wall. Next to the watch is a framed picture of his maternal grandparents that Terry takes down and hands to me.)

(I study the photograph.) You favor your grandpa, Terry.

**Terry:** No has ever told me that. Grandpa was a good man.

How is your dad? How is he doing?

**Terry:** He is good. He's not lonely; he has a companion. He and his lady friend will drive next week to Myrtle Beach and stay in her condo.

You never forgot those times with your grandpa, did you?

**Terry:** No. My brothers and I, we used to go with grandpa to the American Legion. We would sit up on the stools at the bar, drinking our Orange Crush soda, while grandpa would have a beer and a shooter. We felt just like one of the guys.

I can just see it: a Norman Rockwell painting!

**Terry:** Don't know how mom and grandma saw it, but to my brothers and me, these are fond memories.

Any favorite saying of grandpa's?

**Terry:** Yes. Whenever we would leave grandpa's, he would always say, "Watch the corners". He was cautioning us about crossing the street and the street corners. This phrase, over time, has taken on special meaning for my brothers and me. Now, when we sign off from one another, the last thing we say is "watch the corners"; that is our good-bye. My sisters being younger didn't know grandpa as we did, because, back then, they were too little. But, now, they too, say good-bye with "watch the corners".

What a lovely glimpse we have of you and your grandpa! Your love for the elderly is a loving tribute to him. How very proud he must be.

**Terry:** Thank you, Reporter. And reporter, just to assure you, your identity is safe with me.

And with that, Terry and the reporter conclude the interview.



## YOUTH MINISTRY

By Crystal Adams

The Youth Ministry (group) had a night of fasting and fellowship on March 2, 2002. We started our evening at 7:00pm Saturday evening and went until after 11:30 Mass on Sunday. We started our evening becoming more aware of the world around us. We learned about child labor practices in underdeveloped countries through information provided by Catholic Relief Services. It was very eye-opening to realize the problems of others our age. The following are comments made by each of the participants.



**Jennifer** "I think everyone had fun. We did an exercise that made us realize what other children around the world have to do. It was a good idea to do this during the Lenten season."

**David** "I thought this was a fun experience. I learned last night just how lucky I am for all the things I have. If we think about other people in the world, it makes us realize how grateful we should be."

**Nikki** "This night was fun. We watched movies and played playstation. We did get hungry."

**Julie** "It was a blast, we had a great time together. Also we have a greater appreciation to those who starve."

[Youth continued from page 5]

**Kate** "Everything went really well. I had such a blast. I can't wait until next year."

**Carey** "The night was sooo .....Fun."

**Marisa** "I had lots of fun getting to know everyone better. I now have a greater appreciation for those who aren't as fortunate as I am."

**Katie** "Meeting all of the people and enjoying my first fast was a great experience."

**Danny** "There was a mouse that scared the heck out of everyone who was awake. It was fun. I was very hungry throughout the night."

**Eric** "I had a good time. I was busy all day and then this, it was fun."

**Marci** "Everyone had a really good time! We watched movies and played games. We did some activities to help us realize what the conditions would be like if we were working in India. I think it helped us all to realize how fortunate we are."

**Crystal** "They are an awesome group of teenagers. They work together well and make a terrific group. The group is growing at a slow and steady pace. They are very good at welcoming new teenagers to the group. I am very proud of the efforts they made without any complaining and always remaining in good spirits."

After our fast and mass, Msgr. invited us back to the rectory for a WONDERFUL brunch made by members of the parish. We thank everyone who came to serve us brunch, who cooked for us and supported our efforts. We are very lucky to be part of such a wonderful parish.

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## NAMETAG HOSPITALITY SUNDAY IS FOR YOU - FEBRUARY 28, 2002

By Donna Schaeffer and Beth Irwin

Nametag Hospitality Sunday is for You! A few smiles. A couple of warm hand shakes. A doughnut or two. A cup of hot coffee. And a few minutes after church. Combined, they can produce a paschal of new friends and a Sunday full of new memories with old ones. That's what Nametag Hospitality Sunday is all about.



The Pope John XXIII Activities Committee invites you to share this experience every third Saturday and Sunday of the month throughout the entire year. Immediately following each mass on these weekends, parishioners gather at the rear of the seating area for fellowship and food! What could be better?

It could be better if we ALL participated. The more the merrier! We as a parish benefit from the sense of community. In Christ's community we celebrate the mass, but it was not an accident that Christ Himself used food as a symbol of his body and blood. It's no accident that we as his people gather around meals to experience the sense of our Christian community. Even if it's only doughnuts and coffee.

Members of the Activities Committee Susan Frecker, Chair, Ann Allen, Julie Rubadue, Lois Coakley, Sharon Lang, Beth Irwin and Donna Schaeffer welcome 300 to 400 parishioners each hospitality weekend.

Upon entering church each Saturday or Sunday, we all have become accustomed to picking up our nametags, but mass offers few occasions to read them or to meet new people. Many familiar faces sharing one faith come together after mass over a casual cup of coffee.

Our Parish sponsors this special time, not to make sure we have enough to eat, but to encourage a stronger, more unified worship community. A community that will become familiar with each person as an individual with a name that matches that face we see across the sanctuary each weekend. As we match names with faces, smiles and voices, we become one in Christ's church family, not a room full of strangers.

Even though this experience is about much, much more than just doughnuts and a "cup o' Joe," let's face it, the sweets and the caffeine are also appreciated. They don't just appear by magic like manna in the desert. There is a troop of faithful volunteers that carefully brew that coffee, pour the juice and serve the doughnuts. While Monsignor Frecker blesses our snacks, they carry a second "blessing" of their own bestowed by the loving hands of the volunteers that offer them. We all appreciate the gracious gift of their time.

So when cranky kids, lunch in the oven, soccer fields, golf courses, gardening and school homework pull you rushing out the door after mass, pause and understand that a few moments of genuine hospitality and fellowship with your other parishioners may provide the perfect finish to your worship experience.

Please join us the third Saturday or Sunday of each month after the 5:00 p.m. mass, 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 am in. masses for a warm experience that starts with a cup of coffee and ends with new friendships.



## **RIGHT TO LIFE**

**By Crystal Adams**

Through the efforts of the social concerns commission and the subcommittee for The Respect For Life, we were able to present the parish with the Catholic Church's views on the sanctity of life during all the Sundays in January. The first Sunday of the month we started with an overview of the topics for the next three Sundays. It provided the parish with different examples of preserving the life of all human beings. The next Sunday was spent discussing the need for natural family planning. Also, we tried to make parents aware of the need to discuss abstinence with their children.

The third Sunday we dealt with the issue of abortion. This has always been a topic of strong belief on both sides and we felt we needed to create greater awareness around the time of the Roe vs. Wade decision. The final week dealt with our nations intolerance to the aging and the other sections of our society that require a little extra time and understanding.

The need for a little extra help with day-to-day living doesn't make them less of an asset to our society. It is up to us to make them feel that life is worth living.

The subcommittee members (Theresa Prinzler, Kevin and Teri Gilmore, and Mike Forsythe) did an excellent job increasing the awareness of to The Respect Of Life.

Working with the social concerns commission we all worked very hard to make this informative and enlightening. Organizing and gathering the handouts for the month and keeping the table stocked with handouts was a big job, which everyone handled well. We look forward to working together in the future to continue to bring greater awareness of the need to promote human life within the parish-realizing that every life is important to God.

## **SMALL FAITH-SHARING GROUPS, LENT - 2002**

**By Mary Caye Clark**

At the time of the writing of this article, we are halfway through the season of Lent. Our Small Faith-Sharing Groups have met for three weeks. We are happy to report that this year we have 98 participants in the small groups, which is about a 20% increase from last year. We are also pleased to welcome to the program, 15 new parishioners who registered in the parish after Lent last year.

We have been able to offer small group meetings every evening of the week (except Saturday) and 2 morning groups for a total of 10 small groups. We have 12 facilitators who have been very generous in giving of their time to prepare for each meeting and to keep things running smoothly for each session. The facilitators are: Joe McAndrews (Sunday p.m.), Peig Shackelford (Monday p.m.), Mary



Caye Clark (Monday p.m.), Jennifer Ilich (Tuesday p.m.), Bernie and Ann Collins (Wednesday p.m.), Patty Drodofsky (Thursday a.m.), Kathy England (Thursday p.m.), Terry Moore (Thursday p.m.), Lynda Verbance (Friday p.m.), Valerie and Mike Yonnotti (Saturday a.m.).

Most facilitators also served as hosts for their small group meetings. As one facilitator remarked at the training session, “I like being a facilitator, because at least I know my house will get cleaned once a week.” We appreciate Steve and Susan Frecker, as well as Maria Cornell for offering their homes to host small groups, which allowed us to offer two handicapped accessible meeting locations.

Of the current participants, many took part last Lent and/or have been in other small groups in their former parishes, but for some this is their first experience being part of a faith-sharing group. Participants represent a cross section of the parish as a whole: young adults, middle-aged, seniors, working, unemployed, retired, “cradle Catholics”, converts, and those soon to be initiated into the church.

I facilitate a small group on Monday evenings. When we met the first week, each person was asked to introduce himself or herself and share his or her expectations for the small faith-sharing group this Lent. The responses ranged from: “I don’t

know what to expect.” -and- “I hope to get to know other parishioners better.” -to- “In being part of this group, at least I know that I will spend some time in prayer and in reading and reflecting on the scriptures this Lent, which I probably wouldn’t do on my own.”

Each week’s session has a basic format. The meeting starts with an opening prayer. At the heart of each session are the scripture readings for the next Sunday’s liturgy. Volunteers read the scriptures aloud and then there is a time for silent reflection. This is followed by an opportunity for us to share our response to how the scripture relates to our lives today. This is what is called “faith-sharing” that is, a personal sharing of beliefs, doubts, questions, and experiences. Sometimes a person offers a unique insight or experience that can inspire or affect another. At other times, a person could share a situation or struggle that may be similar to something another has also experienced, which can be comforting or encouraging. After the faith sharing, there is a short time for personal reflection on how we can live out our faith more fully during the coming week. Then there is a time of silent reflection and shared prayers of praise, petition, or thanksgiving. Each session ends with a time for refreshments and fellowship, which gives us a great opportunity to get to know each other better. The small faith-sharing group experience provides each of us an opportunity and atmosphere in which we can be encouraged and supported to pray joyfully and share freely our faith journey with one another. Personally, I have found that being part of a small group has given me the opportunity to grow

spiritually and to get to know a wonderful group of fellow parishioners.

In closing, I asked members of our Monday group to share what this small faith-sharing group experience has meant to them. The following are their responses:

“The faith sharing group has given Karla and I another opportunity to grow in Christ together.” (Jon Horvath)

“The opinions of all concerned helps to form a better understanding of faith.”

“Other than the faith-sharing itself, the most beneficial thing for me right now is to be able to get to know some of my fellow parishioners on a more personal level.” (Steve Clark)

“I have found it difficult to open up to the group, but it has been a rewarding experience.” (Scott Adams)

“The experience has been fulfilling and uplifting for me as a human and a Christian.”

“I have grown spiritually since joining the small group faith sharing. Sharing is one of the most rewarding things for me. Thank you for the opportunity.” (Regina Hrytzik)

“The small group faith sharing has provided a wonderful opportunity to experience the scriptures more deeply and to become closer to members of our parish.” (Jim & Sheryl Gerkin)

