

February 19, 2011

Dear Friends,

During the month of January, a feasibility study was conducted to assess the support available for a capital campaign which will enable us to grow and enhance our facilities. The study was conducted by a fundraising consulting firm, Mark Davy & Associates, based out of Minneapolis. They have over 20 years of experience doing studies and working with churches on capital campaigns. The study was focused on determining the following:

- Awareness of Church of Saint Joseph members regarding the proposed expansion and renovation
- Importance of the projects to the future well being of the parish
- Strengths of our faith community
- Areas of concern regarding a campaign
- Leadership and volunteers for a campaign
- Financial capability of the Church of Saint Joseph to conduct a campaign

The results of the feasibility study were positive and a summary of the study is on our web site at www.churchstjoseph.org under the Communications tab. Just click on "Planning" and then go to *Making Room at Our Table*. If you wish to have a paper copy of the summary, please call the parish office.

Based on the comments from parishioners in the surveys and interviews (which are confidential), we want to proceed cautiously. Parish leadership will develop a timeline and a comprehensive education program so everyone is better informed on the projects presented in the case study. The Planning and Design team will work with the architect so that schematic drawings and computer models can be shown to the community in the coming months. There will be plenty of opportunities for parishioner input. The diocese needs to be involved in this planning process, as well. Be assured that you will be kept informed and updated on our progress.

In other news, Bernadette Ethen, parish administrative assistant, has decided to ease into retirement. Since February 1, Bernadette is working 12-16 hours a week rather than her former 32-hour-week schedule. She will officially retire from the parish staff on June 30. We will be reviewing our staffing needs later this spring and will provide updates at that time.

Please pray that the Lord will continue to bless our faith community and all its efforts.

Blessings on your week!

In Christ's peace,

Fr. Joseph, O.S.B.

