



Saint Patrick Church
Chatham, New Jersey

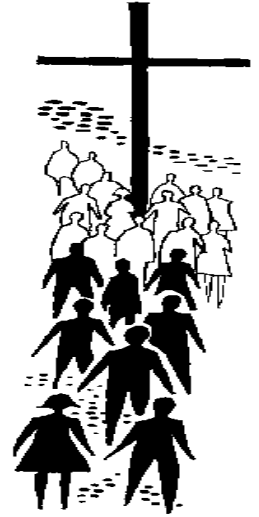
MAY 2007

Parish Life

"BUILT TOGETHER INTO A DWELLING PLACE OF GOD"

From your Pastor, Fr. Ed

We are a community of faith that is being "built together into a dwelling place of God." As a community, we need to look at ourselves and discover how we have "built" in the past, are "building" now, and plan for the future in all our areas of parish life. The surveys and listening sessions will help us to learn more about ourselves and our parish needs. The participation of each member of the parish is vital. This issue of "Parish Life" will try to answer some of the questions you may have.



Some questions you may have wanted to ask...

What is the purpose of *Parish Life*?

It is an occasional newsletter intended to enhance communication between the parishioners, the parish ministries, and the development of the Parish Pastoral Plan. It will provide updated information, schedules and progress about these important areas of Parish Life.

What is the Parish Pastoral Plan?

The Parish Pastoral Plan lays out goals and objectives for the parish that articulate the mission of the parish and priorities for our activities. The current plan is being developed between April and August 2007. The Parish Pastoral Plan will run through 2012 leading up to the 125th Anniversary of St. Patrick Parish.

What is "Built Together into the Dwelling Place of God"?

This is the theme of our Parish Pastoral Plan. It comes from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians and speaks to the scriptural vision we have as a community of faith.

How can I contribute to the Parish Pastoral Plan?

We want to hear your views and experience of parish life here at St. Patrick. We encourage all parishioners to complete and return a Parish Survey and also to attend one of the Parish Listening Sessions (June 10, 13 or 22. See box on the back page for details.)

Why should I fill in the parish survey?

Because this is an opportunity for your voice to be heard and your opinion to influence the discernment of our pastoral priorities for the years ahead. We value and need your input.

What will happen to the survey results?

All survey returns are anonymous. The results from the surveys will be collated and analyzed over the summer and will be used to develop the goals and objectives for the year ahead. A full report of the all the survey results and Parish Listening Sessions will be provided to all parishioners in the fall of this year.

How can I fill in the survey?

All registered parishioners will be sent a survey in the mail with a self-addressed envelope to return it to the parish. Parishioners can also complete the survey confidentially online at the parish website (www.st-pats.org). Surveys will also be available at the back of the Church at the end of the Masses.

Who can come to the Parish Listening Sessions?

The Listening Sessions are open to anyone who wishes to come. We encourage attendance to at least one session by people who go to Mass here at St. Patrick's and especially extend a warm welcome to any former parishioners, those who don't attend Mass regularly, and anyone interested in our faith community. We hope to have all ministries represented at these sessions as well as a diverse age range of parishioners.

What will happen at the Parish Listening Sessions?

A professional facilitator will lead participants through a structured process to elicit your evaluation of St. Patrick Parish and to surface your suggestions for priorities in the years ahead. The Pastor and Pastoral Council will listen to these contributions and use them, together with the Parish Survey results, to discern and formulate the goals and objectives for the Parish Pastoral Plan.

What connection does the Parish Pastoral Plan have with Stewardship or Fundraising?

All our pastoral efforts are connected to being faithful disciples of Jesus and good stewards of all God's gifts to us. The Pastoral Plan aims to facilitate our generosity in the time, talent and money we commit to our parish and our activities of Christian service. Parishioners' donations support ministry personnel and activities and also fund parish facilities and maintenance. In turn, the Pastoral Council and Finance Council commit to transparency and accountability in reporting to parishioners.

Who produces *Parish Life*?

The Communications Group of the Pastoral Council produces this newsletter on a volunteer basis. We are always looking for new members to assist with this informative publication! So please let us know if you are interested or experienced in the communications field, writing, editing, layout/design or office assistance.

Who can I contact about the Parish Pastoral Plan or the parish's mission and ministries?

You can call 973-635-0625 or email info@st-pats.org to contact Fr. Ed, our pastor, or you can email the Pastoral Council at PastoralCouncil@st-pats.org.

We invite your full participation and ask you to **"SAVE THE DATES"** below in order for your voice to be heard as we enter the next exciting phase of our 2007 Pastoral Plan:

PARISH SURVEY Launched at weekend Masses–May 12-13, 2007

- ❖ **May** – Mailed to all registered parishioners
- ❖ **May/June** – Completed by all ministry groups
- ❖ **June 30, 2007** – Deadline for return of survey

PARISH LISTENING SESSIONS in the Parish Center

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| ❖ SUNDAY | June 10, 2007 | 2:00-3:30 PM |
| ❖ WEDNESDAY | June 13, 2007 | 7:30-9:00 PM |
| ❖ FRIDAY | June 22, 2007 | 3:00-4:30 PM |