



Saint Patrick Church  
Chatham, New Jersey

LENT 2008

# Parish Life

"BUILT TOGETHER INTO A DWELLING PLACE OF GOD"

## Moving Forward

**"According to the teaching of the Gospel, we are not owners but rather administrators of the goods we possess: these, then, are not to be considered as our exclusive possession, but means through which the Lord calls each one of us to act as a steward of His providence for our neighbor".**

*2008 Lenten Message of the Holy Father Benedict XVI.*

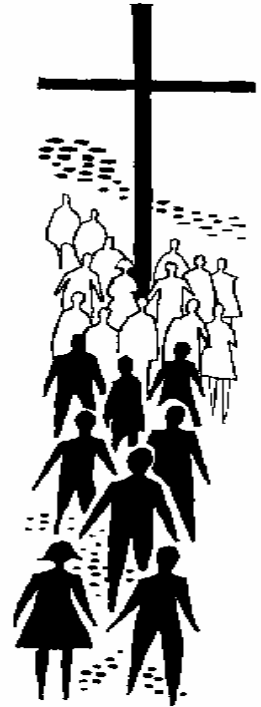
His Holiness Pope Benedict reminds us in his Lenten Message that we are stewards of the many gifts and blessings God has given us in our life and that we are called to accountability in how we use those gifts for others.

As part of our commitment to pastoral planning in St. Patrick Parish, the Pastoral Council promised to report regularly to parishioners on the progress we are making toward achieving our goals for 2007-2008. This is an important part of being accountable for commitments made. It is also a way of thanking all parishioners who are contributing to the building up of our parish into the "dwelling place of God."

In our new parish newsletter, *Parish Life & Times*, issued in November, we invited parishioners to attend a Parish Gathering on November 11 to establish implementation groups for the seven goals identified as priorities for this year. Your response to the invitation was very encouraging and the commitment demonstrated by parishioners is a sign of hope as we seek to address the challenges we face on our journey of faith.

Over 80 parishioners gathered in the parish center to review and approve the parish pastoral plan for the year ahead. Chris Altizer facilitated the session with six members of the pastoral council presenting the priorities and goals that emanated from the parish-wide data-gathering process.

Implementation groups were formed for each of the seven goals. Over fifty parishioners are now volunteering on these groups working together with a parish staff liaison. *Now we need your involvement and support* ⇨



### PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

**SAINT PATRICK PARISH COMMUNITY, nurtured by the Eucharist and the Word of God, recognizes our responsibility to be a welcoming community. We acknowledge our mission to:**

- ◆ pass on our Catholic traditions;
- ◆ strengthen the spiritual life of all parishioners;
- ◆ serve those in need;
- ◆ give witness to the Gospel;
- ◆ reach out to those who are searching for a community of faith.

As you review the goals below, please consider volunteering your time and expertise for one of the implementation groups. You would not be signing up for life! Each group has a timeline of between 3-9 months and will also receive any training/resources needed for their given task.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please email [PastoralCouncil@St-Pats.org](mailto:PastoralCouncil@St-Pats.org) or call Michael Brough (973-701-0043).

## Implementation Groups

### Teaching Goals

- To establish an **adult faith formation program** for the parish. Looking for additional members. Coordinators: Jim Gardner (973-635-4045) or Deidre McAuliffe (973-635-1855).
- To perform a review of the **role of parents and catechists** in religious formation and whether our current structures support that role. To learn from what is working and make recommendations for improvement in other areas. Looking for additional members. Coordinator: Mary Rohe (973-635-5250).

### Christian Community Goals

- To intentionally reshape St Patrick's parish as a more welcoming parish. To create a **welcome ministry** for each Sunday Mass. Looking for additional members and additional greeters. Coordinator: Paul Clarke (973-701-1521).
- To improve two-way communication efforts in the parish through development of a **communications plan** and new vehicles for sharing the good news of the many ministry activities, to encourage further involvement, and to evangelize to parishioners and others in the community. Looking for additional members. Contact person: Ginny Donnellon (973-635-0625 x29).
- To hold a range of **social, community-building events** for particular groups of parishioners and for all parishioners. Looking for additional members and ideas. Contact person: Terri McGovern (973-701-1027).

### Worship Goals

- To form a **worship committee** to coordinate all aspects of Sunday liturgies and to engage a sound specialist to review and upgrade the Church **sound system**. Looking for your suggestions. Coordinator: Mark Nixon (973-635-0484).

### Stewardship Goals

- To form a **Stewardship Council** to develop a comprehensive plan to raise awareness of stewardship of time and talent and financial resources as a Christian disciple. To publish a **Parish Annual Report**. Looking for additional members. Contact person: Joe Wisneski (973-635-4976).

Goals were also identified in the areas of evangelization, service and leadership that will be implemented in 2008-2009.

---

**I**f you have any questions about the parish pastoral plan or the parish's mission and ministries, please call Fr. Ed at 973-635-0625 or email [PastoralCouncil@st-pats.org](mailto:PastoralCouncil@st-pats.org).

## Servant Leadership

Thank you to our young people for their powerful witness during the first night of our Lenten parish mission.

Members of our youth ministry washed the hands or feet of fellow parishioners in response to the example of Jesus: "As I have done for you, so you must do to others."

Whose feet are you being called to wash...?

## 7 Building Blocks Of Parish Life

1. Worship
2. Christian Community
3. Evangelization
4. Teaching
5. Service
6. Leadership
7. Stewardship