



Vision Statement

“Led by the Holy Spirit and made one through the gift and celebration of the Eucharist, we will point to Jesus in everything we say and do”.

It has taken quite a bit of time and quite a bit of effort to frame the above Vision Statement, but I think it has been very worth it. Please read over the Vision Statement. It is a summary statement of who we are and who we are striving to be. Note the coming together as one through the Holy Spirit and our emphasis on the celebration of the Eucharist. We have definitely found in our Family of Parishes a deep devotion to the Eucharist. Thanks be to God! Also notice the phrase about pointing to Jesus. This is again who we are. Many images of the Blessed Virgin Mary show her pointing to Jesus. As Mary Queen of Heaven Family we very much strive to do the same.

I would like to see a prayer based upon this Vision Statement. The prayer would be directed toward growing in our life experience of the statement. St. Ann does currently have a parish prayer. I give it here as an example:

“Holy Father, we the parishioners of St. Ann ask for the assistance of Your Holy Spirit. Fill us with Your grace so that through our faithfulness we may receive Your gifts with gratitude. We pray that these gifts ignite in us a spirit of generosity to give whole-heartedly our time, talent and treasure in order to meet the spiritual and financial needs of this parish. In humility, we commend this prayer to You, through the intercession of St. Ann, in union with Christ our Lord. Amen.”

I also offer as an example and inspiration the Memorare which was written by St. Bernard of Clairvaux. Please feel free and I encourage you to submit prayer ideas.

Mass With Anointing of the Sick

Our Family of Parishes has been increasing the number of family events. This includes the celebration of civil holidays, social events, book studies, and Worship opportunities. I want to highlight the Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick celebrated at St. Bernard on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes February 13. I will highlight other events in future issues of this bulletin. I was among those anointed, as were those pictured below.

Fr. Jim Wedig



Our New Liaison

The Archdiocese has recommended and we have accepted Donna Kastner as our new liaison. I am very happy to have her. She will be meeting with me and our Pathways Lead, Deacon Tim Crooker on a regular basis, helping us with our implementation of Beacons of Light.

Questions from Parishioners

Q: By announcing the leaders of each charism, is that the focus for each of the current parishes?

A: Each of our parishes is in fact engaged in ministries in all the charisms. That will continue. Each of our parishes does, however, have a particular strength that can be identified with one or more of the charisms (principles) of Beacons of Light. What we are working on is bringing all of the ministries associated with one charism together under one leadership team, hence St. Bernard: Evangelization, St. Ann: Love in Action, and St. James Worship. I also find that St. Margaret Mary has particular strengths in Stewardship and Evangelization which will be shared in collaboration.

Q: Is it possible to have a Sunday evening Mass between the four parishes?

A: Yes it is! If we were to add such a Mass to our schedule, however, it could not be in addition to our current schedule. The church at which the Sunday evening Mass was held would have to drop one of its other Masses. This is due to the limit on the number of Masses a priest is permitted to celebrate per day according to Church Law.

Q: Is the lack of priests just in our area or nationwide?

A: The shortage is nationwide. This has led to many dioceses throughout the country initiating similar programs to our Beacons of Light. Please encourage and pray for vocations.

Q: How many people belong to the Mary Queen of Heaven family?

A: The combined census of the four churches is 4388 active families: St. James 1758, St. Bernard 1210, St. Ann 1113, St. Margaret Mary 307. Our weekly Sunday Mass attendance averages 2345 individuals.

Thanks everyone
May God bless us all
Fr. Jim