

What we have accomplished from November, 2005 - January, 2006

In October, Pastor John Parr formed a Team of Elders to listen and respond to parishioner concerns, hurts, needs, and aspirations. The Team was assembled to guide the parish in processing information, disseminating new ideas and advising him and other leaders on transitioning the parish to a vibrant Catholic community. The Team of Elders has taken the following steps to guide the parish on a journey of healing and health.

- The Team sponsored three parish listening sessions (November 13, 27, and December 11), where parishioners were invited to bring their thoughts, prayers, and ideas for action. Approximately 500 members attended the meetings and provided heartfelt input into the process of moving forward. All written comments from the meetings have been collected, transcribed and shared verbatim with parish and Diocesan leadership.
- The Team met frequently over the last three months to plan the process, identify the multiple issues, prepare for parish meetings, begin dialogue with Bishop Fliss and Fr. Peter, suggest concrete improvements, draft a proposed Vision Statement, and pray about all these matters. These meetings have been summarized for the parish in bulletin inserts (October 22, 30, November 13, 27, and December 18) and have been posted on the parish web site. (www.pressenter.com/~stpats/elders)
- Our external facilitators met with most all parish committees and groups including parish staff, school staff, school parents and individuals in November and December.
- The Team sent a delegation to meet with Bishop Fliss (November 21) to deliver our parish comments and begin a dialogue in preparation for the meeting of January 15 and changes into the future.
- The Team sent a delegation to meet with Father Peter (December 14) to deliver our parish comments and begin a dialogue about his on-going ministry here at St. Patrick.
- The Team met with the O'Connell and Ellison families (January 4, 2006) to express our concerns for them, listen to their story and call to change, and assure them of our continued support for their needs into the future.

Commitments:

The Team of Elders has made the following Commitments to the parish.

1. Oversee the parish process of transition, healing and accountability
2. Create a vision and image of St. Patrick Catholic Church looking forward to the future
3. Examine accountability for the "why" of the past and the "how not to" for the future so that:
 - a. Our negative experiences with priests and the Diocese stop occurring, and our adults and children are safe.

- b. The systems that support, ignore or can't see such conditions and situations are changed.
 - c. There is clarity regarding reasonable expectations with which the parish should operate.
 - d. Accountability and the call of corrective action applies to:
 - i. Priests and pastors; past, present and future
 - ii. Diocese of Superior and the Catholic Church
 - iii. Seminaries
 - iv. Ourselves
4. Be an information source that is credible and responsible.
5. Rebuild bridges and trust towards a loving and vibrant Catholic community.