

New St. Monica Parish Meetings

April 26-27th, 2008

Saturday attendance: 8

Sunday: 55

Topic: Diocesan Renewal Program Spirit Alive!

Purpose of the Parish Meeting:

1. To provide information about *Spirit Alive!*
2. To have a parish conversation about implementing it at St. Monica.
3. To identify supportive parishioners to develop interest group(s) relating to renewal.

Spirit Alive! is a 3-year program that is divided into three “movements”.

- I. *Renewal of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ*
- II. *Invitation to renew and deepen our appreciation of the Scriptures*
- III. *Renewal through Discipleship and Stewardship*
 - It is a renewal for both the parish and the Diocese.
 - The Diocese provides materials for presenting within the parish.

Father Ray’s bulletin insert letter last week answered “*what is renewal?*” in terms of the Holy Spirit reinvigorating a personal renewal within the context of a *community*. Renewal may grow out of many things --- a retreat, the seasons of the year, events in our lives, etc. Renewal is fed by prayer, the sacraments, scriptures and support.

There have been some Diocesan liturgies for *Spirit Alive!* but the program is about each parish setting forth its own renewal. Unlike other parishes that have Adult Faith Formation ministers, St. Monica relies on its parishioners within the parish meetings to decide together the course of action for renewal. Empowering our parishioners is part of the renewal process. Sue Staropoli of the Facilitation Team will serve as liaison to individuals & interest groups.

Parishioners attending the parish forum received a hard copy of the “bullet” items from the Diocesan website. Clicking on website titles such as “prayers / daily meditations” or “small Christian communities” yields helpful resources. For persons without computer access, there will be regular opportunities within the bulletin to be kept informed.

DVD Resource: The parish has ten video copies with study guides of the Bishop’s Retreat addressing *Spirit Alive!* It has four (20 min.) segments and each has a hard copy study guide to aid discussion. They may be borrowed for use within the home for family discussions, for viewing at the rectory or viewing in small groups. **Contact the parish office to pick up or drop off copies.**

Questions for today’s Parish Meeting:

1. *What does the parish do as it carries out the Spirit Alive ! renewal program?*
2. *How can the parish support you in the renewal process?*

Parishioner Responses (Saturday & Sunday)

- Willing to give the Diocesan materials a try even though still heartsick about earlier Diocesan actions. Would like a DVD copy and would show it to his family. Encourages others to join the Legion of Mary (3 new members since January) as a means of spiritual renewal within a community context. Join the Our Lady of Fatima procession May 10th.
- Spiritual renewal begins with daily Mass. It gives one a “lift”; especially on weekdays when it is not an obligation. It’s a *prescription* for renewal.
- The “Isaiah Mission” conducted at Our Lady of Good Counsel was a means of renewal. Show the video in the rectory and encourage discussion afterwards. Maintain monthly communication about renewal leading up to an Isaiah Mission. It would be uplifting and evangelizing.
- Use the Diocesan website as a resource. Download one prayer per week and include it in the bulletin. Forward the prayer to the Bulletin editor.
- Summarize the homily in the bulletin.
- Develop a team that will provide the prayer for inclusion in the bulletin on a rotating basis.
- **(Parishioner) Will lead a group Wednesday morning after Mass or on a Monday Evening (watch bulletin for further information).**
- Sue Staropoli will work as a liaison to provide support to small groups involved with renewal.
- Expressed an interest for a Monday or Tuesday evening group.
- I think next year is the *Year of St. Paul*. Could there possibly be a tie-in?
- The renewal could be a possibility to learn various prayer traditions: e.g. Ignatian, Franciscan and Salesian. Rely on parishioners with experience in the traditions.
- **Develop Lifelong Faith Formation not as a committee but rather as a *community*. (Others expressed interest in this and Sue Staropoli is facilitating its start.)**
- When asked for a showing of hands regarding people with computers who would be able to access website information, nearly everyone raised hands.

The Meeting opened and closed with the Spirit Alive! prayer.

