



## January 31, 2010 Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you.”—Jeremiah 1:5*

Dear Friends;

The beginning of the year is a time for renewal and resolutions. We assess where we have been and look forward to where we would like to be at the end of the calendar year.

A couple of years ago we began to embark on a project called “Growing an Engaged Church.” As part of that process we conducted a survey administered by the Gallup organization. Overall a large percentage 31% told us that they were wildly enthusiastic about the parish. Another 51% felt positive about the parish. That is an approval rating of over 80%.

In order to respond to what you told us we formed the “Stewardship and Engagement Council.” Among the things that you told us is that expectations were not always clear, and many were not sure what it is that they could contribute. So the council developed the St Anne Covenant to clearly lay out our mission—what we get from St. Anne and in return what we are asked to give.

In this past year we have modified our parish mission statement to resonate with the four areas of our Covenant. “We are a Christ-centered community called to Worship, Connect, Grow and Serve.”

As the Engagement and Stewardship Council responded to what you told us we began to develop strategies. However we began to realize that it was time to hand the process back over to the Pastoral Council. The role of the pastoral Council is to facilitate the mission and ministry of St. Anne. Stewardship and Engagement’s task will be to help parishioners discover their gifts and discern the call to use those gifts.

Since this calendar year four members of the council (out of the seven) were termed off. We decided that now would be the time to reform the council so that like the Mission statement it would reflect the focus of engagement in the four areas or pillars of our mission. Everything we do as a community falls into those categories.

An ad hoc committee has looked at our mission and our covenant. We have decided how to reshape the Pastoral Council to be reflective of our mission. The Council will be made up of nine members—a facilitator, 2 representatives for each of the pillars (worship, connect, grow and serve), and staff representatives.

The role of the council is to further the mission of the parish, helping us to know Christ better and making him better known. Councilors are registered parishioners but moreover are enthusiastic, involved, motivated and engaged. They love their faith and parish and are committed to helping St Anne to become a fully engaged parish.

The Council meets on the second Wednesday. Meetings will alternate between meeting as a Council one month and the next month the Councilors will meet with ministry leaders.

In the next few weeks we will be surfacing names of candidates to serve in each of the pillars. If you are interested and enthusiastic about becoming a member of St. Anne Pastoral Council contact the office, Fr Ron or members of the staff. A form soon will be available to register. We will contact you and give you more information.

Like Jeremiah there are many gifted and talented people at St Anne. God knows each of us and calls us, each one in a unique way, to further the work of the Kingdom. Is God calling you?

Peace,

*Fr. Ron*