

Report from Planning Session,
September 22, 2007

There were 12 parishioners that met on Saturday September 22, 2007 for the Parish Planning Session which was moderated by Sister Mary Alice Kline.

After breaking into small groups, we were asked to describe the strengths of Saint James. The two small groups put our conclusions together then we reflected on if these strengths were stated in our Parish Mission Statement. We all felt that the Mission Statement is reflective of who we are.

We then discussed areas of where we would like to have Saint James grow. Nine areas were identified. Sister asked us to vote on the five most important areas. There were four areas that had the most importance. We then broke into small groups to set one year identifiable goals for these areas. Each small group reported on their area. Here is the conclusion:

- 1) Restructuring approach to local Social Justice efforts
 - a) Invite Office of Urban Affairs to offer informational evening on Catholic Social teaching and Ministry
 - b) Prison Ministry
 - c) Investigate "Just Faith Ministries"
 - d) Contact Saint Elizabeth Seton's Social Action Committee
Social Concerns Committee is in charge
- 2) Expand Youth participation in the Parish
 - a) Coordinate activities to have maximum participation, develop calendar considering DRE Office, Youth Group and Town Activities
 - b) Increase participation by 30% in youth areas i.e. Religious Education, Junior Choir, Altar Servers and Youth Group
DRE and Youth Director are in charge
- 3) Explore Opportunities for Inter-parish collaboration
 - a) Support Saint Elizabeth Seton's Office of Urban Affairs Award by having full table at OUA banquet, Sending congratulations letter, making announcement recognizing them
 - b) Hold a social get together combining both Parishes
 - c) Support efforts to have the Youth collaborate in some activities
Community Life is in charge
- 4) Seek ways to educate/form Parishioners in Liturgy, Scripture and Catholic Teachings
 - a) Use homilies to educate parishioners
 - b) Increase communication between homilist and parishioners
 - 1) Seek agreement by Pastor and deacon
 - 2) Opportunity to question issues brought up in homily
 - 3) Communication would result in an insight into this community i.e. people's needs or understanding
 - 4) Vehicles, website to exchange questions, concerns