

December 2004:

### Minutes of the December 4, 2004 Leadership Council Meeting

This was our fourth Council meeting. Attendees were Fr. John Sandersfeld, Joe Swyt, Will Sousae, Ginny Hinkle, Pattie Cortese, John Toole, Pete Adams and Willy Agbayani

.There was a general consensus that we are coming together as a leadership team and that we are better organized now than when we first started. As a team building exercise, we simulated a plane crash and formed small groups to develop survival based strategies. Our strategies were then compared to the recommendations of survival experts. Activities such as this one are designed to assist us in group problem solving and ensure that we are interacting broadly with each other.

The heads of Finance and Administration, EC's and Faith Formation presented a summary of their respective group discussions. The leadership team was advised:

#### Finance and Administration-

- The Finance team announced that it is hard to find anything wrong with the Parish in terms of our finances and near-term financial outlook. However, issues such as slowing growth of the parish, debt service and new ADA goals must be addressed
- 350 pledge cards were returned that offered the Parish either financial support or time and talent and there are several first time contributors
  - Parish net income is currently in excess of expenses and our cash reserves are building
  - Facilities and Grounds are proceeding to evaluate a cost reduction proposal, which incorporates the use of solar panels
  - The communications team has been reorganized and the newest release of the Vision Voice has been distributed

#### Ecclesial Communities-

- The EC stated that efforts aimed at coaching Dove Hill are beginning to pay dividends as mass attendance there has increased from an average of 40 adults to 60 adults and there is an upward trend in collections.
- There are 15 students now enrolled in the youth choir

#### Faith Formation Commission-

- 550 to 600 people are engaged in the Generations of Faith program at St Francis.
- Sacramental programs, RICA and 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist programs are now integrating routinely with the Generations of Faith program, which has been broadly embraced by the Parish as a faith development activity and means to develop our faith in a family setting

Leadership Council Discussion-

- Father John has expressed an interest to gather community leaders to discuss Pastoral management succession and has requested a series of recommended strategies designed to preserve the culture and build upon the growth story of St. Francis in a post-Father John environment.

There was insufficient time to address this issue and it was agreed that a small group of interested parish members would meet prior to the next leadership meeting to explore approaches for the membership's consideration at the next meeting.

After developing a series of strategies, it was agreed that these would be shared first with parish leaders and later with a broad cross section of the parish for their consideration and comment. Only after the Parish had time to coalesce around a favored strategy, would the leadership Counsel develop an approach to the Diocese for their support.

- Finally, the Council was asked to work within the deanery to develop a financial presentation to the Diocese that addressed deanery capital needs.