

Stewards of the Vision

2007 St. Norbert Parish Report

One year ago we articulated our aspirations for the St. Norbert Parish community in the following vision statement and expressed our confidence that we could achieve the vision together through grateful stewardship of God's many gifts:

St. Norbert Parish aspires to become:

+one in Christ

+as a community of fervent disciples

+who listen attentively for the guidance of the Holy Spirit

+and who lovingly embrace Jesus present in the poor, the alienated and the spiritually hungry.

We are all called to be disciples, and stewardship is our lived response to the invitation to love and serve the Lord, giving generously of our time, talent and treasure. The following are highlights of our progress in bringing the parish vision to life and a glimpse at the journey ahead.

One in Christ

As Church we are members of the Body of Christ, each with a different part to play but united with Christ as the head. The diversity of our Church comes from the variety of God's gifts and the uniqueness of each person who receives them. We use these gifts to advance the vision in the following ways:

Worship: The centerpiece of our oneness in Christ is the celebration of Eucharist, which binds us to one another, to the universal Church and to Christ. On a typical weekend over 2100 people gather at our five weekend Masses, which vary in liturgical style from quiet and contemplative to vocal and energetic. Our priests and deacons are now supported by more than 300 lay liturgical ministers—*sacristan, altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, greeters/ushers, lectors and musicians*. The added Eucharistic ministers have allowed us to offer both the Precious Body and Blood of Christ at most Sunday Masses. To welcome our Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters we now celebrate a Spanish Mass on the first Saturday of



every month. We have beautiful worship spaces and surrounding grounds radiant with year-round color through the dedicated service of volunteers in the *Altar Guild* and the *Gardening Committee*.

Youth Involvement: Our unity in diversity is also reflected in our ministries to parishioners through the many stages of life. Parents prepare for the Baptism of their children through the *pre-Jordan baptismal preparation program*. At our 11:30 Sunday Mass many toddlers and pre-school children are in the *Nursery* program while those in grades K-3 explore the Sunday Mass readings through the *Children's Liturgy of the Word*. We have a vibrant and expanding youth ministry program. Around 200 boys and girls participate in the *Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)*, competing in numerous team sports and giving back to the community through a variety of service projects. The Sunday evening Youth Mass draws a full house—standing-room only--and afterwards more than 50 high school teens gather for faith formation and fellowship. Another 50 have attended a new youth program for 7th and 8th graders on Wednesday evenings. This year many of our parish teens attended weekend retreats at Daylesford Abbey and in Attleboro, MA, and traveled to western Pennsylvania for a one-week mission trip that included making home repairs for needy families and conducting a vacation bible school for local children.

Marriage Preparation, Seniors, Ecumenical Efforts: Our *pre-Cana* marriage preparation program held two weekend retreats for couples preparing to become one in Christ through the Sacrament of Marriage. A number of our seniors enjoyed the activities of the *Seniors' Club* and we also continued to embrace our brothers and sisters in Christ through the 9th annual joint ecumenical service with Paoli Presbyterian Church.

Community of Fervent Disciples

In Baptism we are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ. But we are not called to be lone disciples. Discipleship is meant to be lived out in community. At St. Norbert Parish we are living that discipleship by:

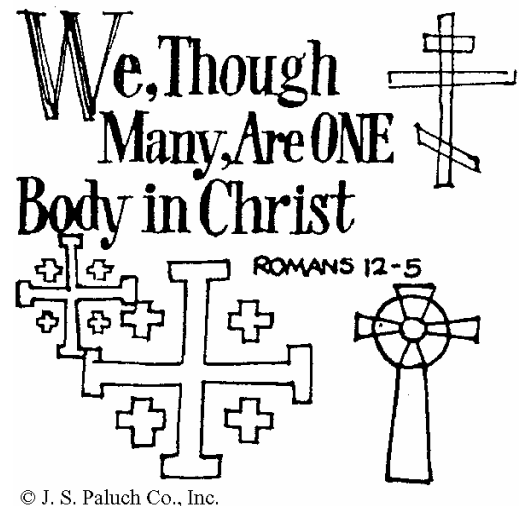
Building for the Future: Like the early Church, which gathered in the temple and broke bread in the disciples' homes, we come together to grow in friendship and spirituality, to play together and pray together. Recent enhancements to our facilities—construction of the Oratory, expansion of the Church narthex, the addition to the Education Center and the renovation of the lower level of the Parish Office—provide space to socialize and to hold programs and gatherings to enrich us in our faith.

Growing in Community: We deepen our bonds of fellowship through a variety of social activities. Over 400 people, including dozens of volunteers from all areas of the parish, enjoyed an afternoon of food and games at our annual Parish Picnic in June. Last December more than 300 people attended the Spanish Mass and Fiesta in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The *Knights of Columbus* hosted a Pasta Night, Pancake Breakfast and Trivia Night. Many people participated in the St. Norbert Parish Golf Outing to benefit the school, CYO and youth ministry, and the "Taste of the Main Line" dinner and auction raised \$45,000 for *Bethesda Project* ministry to the homeless and our sister parish St. Gabriel's Food Cupboard. Our second annual pot-luck social for the members of the Lenten faith sharing groups drew 120 people. The *St. Norbert Home and School Association (HASA)* hosted numerous activities to build community and foster ties with other members of our parish.

Praying Together: As a community of fervent disciples we come together in prayer. We welcomed 54 new members to our parish in Baptism, witnessed the marriage of 16 couples and mourned at the funeral liturgies of 28 loved ones. Many parishioners met to deepen their faith through other prayer and worship experiences, including the First Friday *Festival of Praise, Eucharistic Adoration* and Benediction, the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet, the *Moms in Touch* prayer group and the Living Stations of the Cross presented by the Youth Group.

Education for All: We also grow in discipleship through numerous other faith formation opportunities. In the 2007-2008 school year, 179 children are being educated in their faith through attendance at *St. Norbert School* and 445 through the *Religious*

Education program. *Adult formation* highlights include: the "Why Catholic?" lecture series; a multi-media presentation about the Divine Mercy devotion; book studies on the miracles of Jesus and *Christianity and the Crisis of Cultures*; and several different *Bible Study* offerings, including studies of Psalms, Isaiah, Revelation and both 24-week and 8-week journeys through the narrative books of the Bible.



Listen Attentively for the Guidance of the Holy Spirit

St. Norbert parish seeks to grow as a community responsive to God by listening attentively for His voice at all times and in all places. One way that this occurs is through our liturgies, where the power of the preaching, the beauty of the music and the reverence of the congregation allow us to hear the voice of God more profoundly. Other ways include:

Faith Sharing: Many in our community have heard the Lord's voice within *small faith-sharing groups*. This year the number of participants in our Lenten groups increased by half, with 150 people meeting in 14 groups for the six weeks of Lent, and some groups continuing to meet after that. Members meet in homes to listen to and reflect on the upcoming Sunday Gospel reading and share how the passage speaks to them. The *Men's and Women's Word of Life* groups meet monthly at the parish to reflect on a Scripture passage and to share their life experiences in trying to live God's Word.

Planning for Our Growing Parish: Parish planning also takes place in this context of discerning where the Holy Spirit is leading us. Parish ministries start their meetings with prayer, often including scripture

reflection and sharing. The Parish Pastoral Council prayerfully helps our pastor discern the path forward for our community. One of the fruits of this discernment process has been the establishment of what we call the “**Acts 6 Ministry**,” a formation program based on the early Church model described in chapter 6 of the Acts of the Apostles, to develop new servant leaders to share responsibility for meeting the needs of our growing parish. Another example of this process is the recently-established **St. Norbert School Advisory Board**, which will strengthen and assist in the development of our fine Catholic school.

Lovingly Embrace Jesus Present in the Poor, the Alienated and the Spiritually Hungry

As members of the Body of Christ we are each called to imitate Jesus and to become His hands and feet and compassion in service to others. When we minister to the needs of our parish family and the broader community, we reach out to Jesus Himself, for “whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine you did for me” (Matthew 25:40). As a parish community we are dedicated to:

Helping the Homebound: Within our parish we draw those who are physically unable to come to church into our prayer life through Eucharistic Ministers who bring the **Eucharist to the homebound**, monthly Masses at Highgate Assisted Living facility and the visiting prayer ministry of the **Legion of Mary**. Members of the **Helping Hands** ministry also reach out to provide for the special needs of parishioners on a temporary basis, or refer them to appropriate government agencies.

Exploring the Catholic Faith: We feed the spiritually hungry through programs such as the **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)**, which allows those who might be interested in becoming Catholic to learn more about the Catholic faith, and also prepares adult Catholics who have not yet been confirmed to receive that final sacrament of initiation. Over 100 people have enrolled to explore the fundamentals of the Christian faith this fall at St. Norbert’s through the **Alpha** program, which has been attended by more than six million people from many denominations worldwide.

Feeding the Hungry: Our love and concern for those outside our parish is expressed through the generosity of parishioners who give of their time, talent and treasure in support of the many works facilitated by the parish outreach ministries. We fed the hungry through

food collections of roughly 75 bags per month and over 800 turkeys and hams and 500 bags of food at Thanksgiving and Christmas for the St. Gabriel’s Food Cupboard. Fifteen volunteers logged over 2,000 hours of service while others prepared more than 1,000 **casseroles for Bethesda Project homeless shelters** in Philadelphia. Others delivered meals for nearby homebound individuals through **Aid for Friends**. We provided for those in need through **monthly collections of clothing and small household items** and by donating more than 100 filled backpacks to children at St. Gabriel’s and 100 pairs of pajamas and books to children in Chester County shelters. We also collected almost \$32,000 through our pink envelopes to support these outreach efforts and to help parishioners in need.

Protecting the Innocent: We embrace Jesus present in all life from conception to natural death through the parish **Pro-Life** ministry, which gathers monthly for discussion and prayer, and gives public witness through the annual March for Life in Washington, DC.

Looking ahead

To face the challenges of this generation with the full power of the Gospel requires us to give ourselves enthusiastically to building of the Kingdom of God. Each of us has an important role to play and our unique gifts equip us for that role. We are called to be good stewards of these gifts and in gratitude to return them in love and service to the Lord.

This report highlights the progress we have made to move the parish vision forward, but much remains to be done. We invite you to consider how you might enter more fully into the life of our community by reviewing the “**Opportunities for Growth and Service**” brochure. This brochure reflects the ministries that we have in place at this time. We also recognize that there are other unmet needs and other ministries waiting to come to life to address them. If you have insights and energy to share around these additional needs, we encourage you to come forward so that we might discern them together. To find out more about participating in an existing ministry or to discuss other ministry opportunities, please call or e-mail the designated ministry contact person or call the Parish Office at 610-644-1655.

Thank you for all that you have already done and for all that we can accomplish together in the months ahead with God’s grace.

This report was prepared by the Parish Stewardship Committee.

Parish Financial Report

Our parish continues to grow, both in vitality and in numbers. As of July 1, 2007 we numbered 1724 families. In 1997 we numbered 864 families.

As the following financial information shows, we have also experienced growth in contributions. It is quite clear that without the ongoing, generous support of our parishioners we would not be able to offer many of the services that we do – such as full-time youth ministry and a broad spectrum of adult faith formation opportunities. The important ministry of our excellent Catholic school would not be available without our parish subsidy, which covers 39% of the school's operating budget.

The operating expenses cover the host of things that you might expect: salaries, utilities, insurance and the like. The bigger capital expenses do not readily show in the annual operating budgets because they are recorded separately and because they carry over through a number of fiscal years. We are still paying for items connected to our major building additions.

An inspiring example of stewardship commitment to our parish is the member of our staff who declined to accept the salary for his position. This savings in our operating budget allowed for some capital improvements in the parish office building, which had been neglected in deference to the major work on the church and school.

Our Capital Campaign, now in the fourth of its five years, had a \$3 million goal which has not yet been reached. \$2.81 million has been pledged and \$2.64 million has been received. Our cash position will, nonetheless, permit us to: meet our short-term capital needs, estimated at \$350,000; cover approximately one month of working capital; and cover some minor emergency expenses.

We need your continued support to allow us to fulfill our parish vision. As we grow in stewardship each of us is called to cultivate a spirit of generosity, which is most fully revealed in our sharing of time and talent, but is also manifest in our sharing of treasure, for “where your treasure is, there will be your heart also” (Luke 12:34). We are called to return to God the

“first fruits” of our gifts, and the rich tradition of “tithing” set forth in Scripture is an expression of this practice. Tithing is giving 10% of a family's income to the service of the Lord. How much each of us contributes to the parish is ultimately a matter of individual conscience, but the U.S. bishops suggest that half of a family's total charitable contributions be given to the parish. For a family with a \$50,000 annual income that tithes, that would mean a contribution to the parish of about \$50.00 per week. Whatever your means, your contributions to the stewardship of our parish—financial, service and spiritual—are all appreciated.

Registered parishioners are welcome to request a look at the fuller financial report by contacting our business manager.

ST. NORBERT PARISH STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE FISCAL YEARS ENDING JUNE 30TH

	2005	2006	2007
Church & Rectory Income			
Collections	\$868,041	\$933,694	\$1,074,858
Religious Education Programs	48,035	52,108	76,504
Special Donations, Other Income	53,185	61,705	69,747
Total Church & Rectory Income	\$969,260	\$1,047,507	\$1,221,109
Church & Rectory Expense			
Diocesan Assessment	\$109,300	\$103,300	\$96,800
Payroll, Taxes & Benefits	311,677	327,522	377,063
Utilities & Maintenance	47,290	67,606	72,446
Church Publications, Altar Supplies	24,993	25,265	20,888
Auto, Insurance, Real Estate Taxes	21,433	22,918	20,343
Religious Education Programs	31,855	51,399	56,056
Pastoral Administration, Charities	23,062	29,359	23,305
Professional Fees, Contracted Services	39,068	23,328	20,906
Rectory Operating Expenses	12,349	12,304	32,677
Office Supplies & Equipment	14,963	13,115	16,228
Total Church & Rectory Expense	\$635,990	\$676,116	\$736,712
Church & Rectory Net Income	\$333,269	\$371,391	\$484,397
School Income			
Tuition	\$434,144	\$383,291	\$405,554
Donations & Socials	79,068	97,161	105,814
Other Income & Fees	91,354	92,066	89,326
Total School Income	\$604,566	\$572,518	\$600,694
School Expense			
Payroll, Taxes, Benefits	\$678,325	\$718,108	\$755,769
Maintenance, Utilities, Insurance	96,670	113,687	112,269
Instructional Supplies	138,968	139,330	118,897
Total School Expense	\$913,963	\$971,125	\$986,935
School Subsidy	\$309,398	\$398,607	\$386,241
Net Parish Income (Loss)	\$23,872	(\$27,216)	\$98,156
Capital Expenditures	\$1,517,960	\$1,362,000	\$358,657

Parish Pastoral Council: Father Domenic Rossi, Father Maurice Aviccoli, Deacon John Lozano, Ceil Frack, Theresa Garvin, Mark Griswold, Larry Kirwin, Pete Radice, Sharyn Tehrani, Pat Conroy, Lisa Corcoran, Hank Fila, Diane Kunberger, Steve Martino, Frank McLaughlin, Frank Merenda, Maria Morales, Moira Murphy

Parish Finance Council: Father Domenic Rossi, Deacon Bill Masapollo, Ceil Frack, Larry Kirwin, Guy Ciarrocchi, Cody Gabriel, Chuck Kerrigan, Moira Murphy, John Ziegler

Parish Stewardship Committee: Hank Fila, Diane Kunberger, Dave Makowicz, Marie Martino, Jeannine McCullough, Frank Merenda, Moira Murphy
St. Norbert School Advisory Board: Jim Buysse, Tom Cancelmo, Chris Carlini, Mary Ann Carlisle, Kristina Christman, Guy Ciarrocchi, John Eggleton, Cody Gabriel, Jim Gabriele, Maria Gatto, Fran Grey, Asha Kovalovich, John Ziegler, Brian Zwaan