

External Linkage with Regional Parishes entails establishing and maintaining open lines of communication and resource sharing to efficiently and effectively utilize St. Anthony Parish time and talents with our regional parishes, St. Margaret/St. John and St. Cecelia. There are three goals:

- 1) to collaborate on joint sacramental preparation,
- 2) identify the charisms of each parish,
- 3) study/focus on the best structure for continuity of the regional leadership.

Recent collaborative activity for regional parishes included two Pastoral Care presentations held at St. Anthony Church. We are planning a Pastoral Regional gathering in 2010 to include representatives of various ministries from each parish. The impact we will see...year one - learning and determining the collaboration opportunities; year two - embrace collaboration as the accepted norm for the regional community; year five - the consistent collaboration between regional parishes as the method of operation.

Increasing Membership and Engagement is focused on developing a new member process, a new member packet, and ways to increase parish engagement, for example a covenant. No volunteers are needed at this time, however a New Member Committee will require participants when created. The first activity will include parishioners "renewing" their covenant with St. Anthony Church. The goal is to have this completed by the end of spring 2010.

Youth Ministry was recognized by our parishioners as a priority area. We are focused on defining how to provide a faith based opportunity for the youth of our parish. The past year's efforts in forming a group resulted in minimal participation; therefore it is necessary to re-evaluate the existing plan, establish a team and create a new plan focus. It must account for participants who are geographically spread out and consider opportunities to leverage regional parishes. Currently we are increasing the youth involvement in weekly celebrations. We will need 2-3 volunteers willing to plan and bring the ministry to life. Without parental/guardian/youth involvement the ministry will not succeed. Targeting this summer to create plan and determine implementation.