

January 2022

Pulse of the Parish

The “Pulse of the Parish” project was designed by our Parish Pastoral Council in anticipation of a change in leadership. Thanks to Council members and to all who participated in the survey. A modest document has been created expressing what Saint Mary Catholic Community is all about: our values and concerns, our accomplishments and needs. Such a “snapshot” of our faith community will be valuable to our whole parish at this time of transition, as it gives a broad sense of life here at Saint Mary. It will be helpful to Father Jeff Fleming as he prepares to lead our faith community, and it will be informative for Bishop Vetter as well.

During these past two years our parish has become known for its efforts to provide a safe environment in a time of COVID. Saint Mary is known in other ways too, notably our attention to Catholic social teaching. The seven elements of Catholic social teaching are displayed on the kiosk in our gathering space each week, and they are printed in the weekly bulletin.

And it’s not just a matter of words on a placard or page. The Church’s social teaching shows us how to build a just society and live lives of holiness, so it’s about living in a way that can energize social justice, raising prophetic voices to bring institutional and cultural change. As the Council reviewed responses to the question about our parish’s greatest achievement over the past ten years, it wished to express this concern for achieving social justice with the term Community Outreach, because it highlights the need for change - and change is what social justice is all about.

Father Richard