



St. Jane Frances de Chantal
CHURCH

PASTORAL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

About the Council

The St. Jane Frances de Chantal Pastoral Council meets monthly to discuss activities at the parish and school, reports on the work carried out by the committees of the Council, and assists the Pastor in achieving the goals of the parish. The council develops and recommends policies to represent the needs and views of the parish, coordinates activities of the many organizations, and performs other tasks promoting the mission of our church.

The Council is made up of fifteen elected members who serve three-year terms. Five members are elected each Spring. Participation on the Council involves attendance at a monthly meeting (nine months of the year), and service on one of the Council's seven committees: Communications; Education; Evangelization; Parish Life; Social Concerns; Vocations; and Worship and Spiritual Growth. The Parish Council also includes the School Principal, the Director of Religious Education, and the heads of Sodality, Finance Council, Home and School Association, School Board, and CYO. For further information, contact Scott Matejik, Council Chairperson (301-571-4353); scott@scottmatejik.com.

Pastoral Council Elections

Nominations are being accepted from February 28 thru March 22 for the five openings to the Pastoral Council. Afterwards, ballots will be mailed out with the election to follow. See the parish bulletin for a nomination form.

Time and Talent Fair Recap

The fall Time and Talent Fair was a big success with thirty ministries and organizations represented. 164 people signed up as new volunteers. Thank you to Elizabeth Sanborn, the Stewardship Council and the volunteers who made this important parish event so successful.

Volunteer Dinner

Planning for the biannual De Chantal volunteer appreciation dinner is well underway. Coordinators Liz Strand and Alan Heintz are working on coordinating the many details. The date for the event will be November 5, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda.

The School Board

The School Board and parish Finance Council have approved the 2010-2011 De Chantal school budget. Msgr. Essex and Principal Betsy Hamilton gave their final approval for the budget, which includes a modest tuition increase of 1.75% (\$90) for single child families.

The web study group, along with Mrs. Hamilton and the School Board, is working with HSA to enhance and integrate the school and HSA web sites. Combining the websites will streamline access, allow for a wider variety of enhancements, provide more detailed information, increase access to registration materials, and reduce costs.

The Faith Formation Advisory Board

The Faith Formation Advisory Board, under the leadership of Sister Sally, shepherds the monthly lecture series and continues to explore ways of expanding educational opportunities for the parish. The adult lecture series kicked-off in October with Fr. Paul's "Liturgy 101-Why we do what we do in Mass" and has featured informative and inspirational

teachers including Helen Alvare discussing “Marriage and Family-Faith and Reason”, Jem Sullivan discussing “The Beauty of Faith-Using Christian Art to Spread the Good News”, and Fr. Joseph Wimmer, who hosted and taught the adult Advent lecture series addressing “Biblical Spirituality.” Look for upcoming events announced in the bulletin.

Pro-Life March for Life

Our parish housed 55 seminarians from Boston attending the March for Life on January 22. In addition to housing the Friars overnight in Caulfield Hall, Sodality provided snacks, breakfast and drinks for our guests.

New Members Welcomed

150 newly registered De Chantal families were contacted by the Pastoral Council over the past year and invited to the “doughnut” socials after the 8 am and 10 am masses in Caulfield Hall. The socials are a great way to meet other parishioners and welcome our new members

Our Sister Parish-The Shrine of the Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart, our sister parish in Washington, DC, and Father Steven Carter want to thank De Chantal for the generous support provided over the past year. The Sodality, youth group and the social justice ministries have been instrumental in helping with the varied needs of their parish. As detailed in the Winter issue of the Good Steward newsletter, activities include help with the Haitian Memorial mass celebrated by Archbishop Wuerl, Christmas gifts from the De Chantal Giving Tree, food baskets, canned food drive, gift cards for Thanksgiving Day meals, school supplies, children’s winter coats, and monetary assistance to help with their aging physical plant and program needs. Discussions are ongoing to develop ways to deepen our relationship and plan more activities together.

Vocations Spotlight

The Family and Vocations committee has launched a new vocations spotlight initiative. Copies of testimonies from current Seminarians can be found in the back of church and are also distributed to De Chantal students. Last month’s spotlight was on Deacon Justin Huber while this month features Deacon Blake Evans. Take a copy home to read and share with others.

Social Justice

Congratulations to the Ladies of Charity who are celebrating their 350th anniversary. And to their partner charity, St. Anne’s Infant Home, who is celebrating their 175th anniversary.

The Pro-Life Christmas card sales exceeded \$1,000 this season.

The Legislative Network of the Maryland Catholic Conference has a program which allows you to register on-line to receive e-mails about legislation related to issues of the Catholic Church. The website to register is www.mdathcon.org.

Evangelization

The Evangelization committee is developing a contact method for purposes of reaching out to new residents of our De Chantal communities in an effort to welcome them and invite them to consider joining our church.

In the United States, an estimated 30% of Catholics attend Mass regularly. A website designed to help Catholics learn and express their faith can be found at www.CatholicsComeHome.com.

Ever Wonder How De Chantal News Finds Its Way into the *Parish Times*?

One of the main tasks of the Council’s Communications Committee is to ensure coverage of de Chantal news in media such as the *Parish Times*. Sherri Covell and Jamie Caulfield welcome ideas and photos for future articles. Contact Jamie Caulfield, Communications Committee Chair (301-365-2580; james@caulfieldclan.net) for further information.