



*St. Jane Frances de Chantal*  
CHURCH

## **PASTORAL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

### **About the Council**

The St. Jane Frances de Chantal Pastoral Council meets monthly to discuss recent activities across the parish and school, report on the work carried out by the various committees of the Council, address any special issues facing the parish, and advise the Pastor on matters of concern.

The Council is made up of fifteen elected members from our parish community, each of whom serves a three-year term. Five members are elected each Spring in an election process that takes place during March and April.

Service on the Council involves attendance at a monthly meeting (nine months of the year), and service on one of the Council's seven committees—ranging from worship and spiritual growth to family life and vocations. For more information about the Council, please feel free to contact one of the following:

- Ken Clansky, Council Chairperson (301/564-4071; kclansky@aol.com)
- Scott Matejik, Council Vice-Chairperson (301/571-4353; scott@scottmatejik.com)

### **Convocation on Catholic Education**

A pastor, principal, representative from the parish school board, pastoral council and finance council from each parish in the Archdiocese of Washington participated in Convocation on Catholic Education on October 5. They identified four key issues: the Catholic identity of our schools; excellence of our schools; affordability, and accessibility. The Convocation addressed ways to reverse the declining enrollment in many Catholic schools, although St. Jane's enrollment remains strong. The convocation is also concerned that many parents in newer suburban areas lack access to Catholic schooling opportunities for their children, due to the smaller number of Catholic Schools located in those areas. The Convocation wants to begin to develop a strategic plan involving marketing, development, and forming an enrollment policy to address the enrollment problem in many Catholic Schools.

### **Father Helwig's 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary**

Father Helwig will be celebrating his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination on May 31, 2008. The Parish Council has formed an *ad hoc* committee to plan for the celebration.

### **New Stations of the Cross**

We have hired an artist to make 14 new stations of the cross.

### **Shrine of the Sacred Heart Thanks St. Jane for Its Donation**

The Parish Council decided that we should “pair” with a parish in the Archdiocese of Washington that is in need of financial assistance to carry out its mission. St. Jane donated \$20,000 to the Shrine of the Sacred Heart. The money will be specifically dedicated to particular projects.

### **Pro-Life Letter Writing Campaign**

The Social Concerns Committee took the lead in organizing St. Jane’s recent “pro-life letter writing campaign.” The focus of the campaign concerns State of Maryland funding for crisis pregnancy centers and adoption agencies.

### **Monthly Coffee and Donut Gatherings Welcome New and Current Parishioners**

Each month after the 8 am and 10 am Sunday Masses, the Council’s Parish Life Committee sponsors a coffee and donut social in Caulfield Hall. These lively occasions provide a special opportunity for new parishioners to get acquainted with current parishioners, and for everyone to enjoy fellowship with members of the St. Jane’s community. Periodically, Pastoral Council members make personal phone calls to invite newly registered parishioners to the next coffee.

### **Volunteer Dinner**

The biannual volunteer dinner is planned for November 7, 2008, at the Hyatt in Bethesda.

### **New School Strategic Plan**

The School Board and the Home and School Association are developing a new strategic plan for the school. The plan will focus on four areas: demographics, improvements to buildings, ensuring that the students have technological resources that are comparable to other schools, and the feasibility of a pre-K program.

### **Advent Lecture Series**

An Advent Lecture Series, given by Kathleen Brown of WTU, took place on December 3, 10, and 17 at St. Jane’s. She discussed Salesian spirituality, the spirituality of St. Jane De Chantal, and prayer in the Salesian tradition.

### **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*. Former Council member Sherri Covell is especially active in soliciting and preparing stories for publication. The Committee welcomes ideas and stories for future articles and photos—please contact Steve Rinaldi, Communications Committee Chairperson (301/907-8876; stevendrinaldi@msn.com).