

The Winds of Change are Blowing. May 16, 2010

Dear Parish Family,

I, like many of you, feel a great uncertainty about our parish in the near future. We have and will have many more opportunities to change, grow, and develop who we are, and how our faith is a witness not only to the unchurched, but our cluster partners. As I ponder this new time we are in, and try to answer the numerous questions of parishioners and others, I found myself searching for answers about "What is parish?" I have included in today's bulletin articles from the Archdiocesan web site. I dare say that we are a parish, and will continue to be parish as long as the members of this parish want to be parish.

As a member of this parish for 30plus years, I have seen many changes. Some were very good and some not so good, but in every change we grew into who we are, a people of faith. To this end, I ask you to pray and reflect about what part in this parish do you play? Will you be a person who comes in the doors complaining about the changes, or will you embrace those changes seeking to follow the Spirit on this journey?

Prayerfully, Pam

May 18, 2010

What is a parish?

Last week Pam wrote this subject. I wanted to share my feelings too, Saint Elizabeth's has given me a home for prayer, a gathering of wonderful friends, and a purpose in life (Social Ministries). Everyone here has become a part of my extended family. A parish is only as strong as the people within make it. Be strong for the parish, to our patron saint, Saint Elizabeth, and to God, who by His Grace has brought us together in this community. May He bless and continue to watch over all of us. We have weathered other challenges in our personal and church life. And, do we not trust in our Redeemer to help us? In the upper room, He promised us peace. Let us embrace that gift, and rejoice in His love, and our congregation of faith. - Mike from Social Ministries.

June 18, 2010

After considerable reflection on "what is a parish" and some research of the history of St. Elizabeth, I have come to the conclusion that a parish is not a physical place; it is the love and concern for one another that we exhibit.

Throughout the rich history of St. Elizabeth by the members of our parish and even though our community has shrunk in size, we have not changed. I grew up schooled at St. Elizabeth, served as an alter server for Monsignor McCabe and Fr. Porcari. On Sunday, four Masses were celebrated with two on the weekdays, even in the summer. I went away to serve in the military and never returned until the late 1990's. Things had changed with the school closing, Mass schedule diminished and other changes in the parish, but one thing remained the constant; the members of our Catholic Community.

Throughout our history as a Christian faith community, we have faced many challenges and we now must travel down an uncertain road, there is a truth in our hearts that never lies if we walk on faith, trust in the love of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I have traveled some as I am sure that most people have and have visited many parishes outside of St. Elizabeth it was always good to come home. The building will not stand forever but the values that are carried in our hearts our make us unique as part of the Body of Christ. I ask that each and everyone pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit.

I thank you for being my Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Stephen Kozikowski