Dear Parishioners,

PASTORAL PLAN
Last winter and spring our parish participated in the GROW pastoral planning process offered by the Archdiocese. After gathering together demographic and financial data about the parish, and the results of the parish wide survey taken last March, through a process of prayer and discernment the GROW committee (Staff: myself, Mike McDonald, Sean Lavell, Judy Van Den Broeke; Trustees: Mark Meuer and Bill Mori; Parishioners: Joe and Lisa Budnick, Joe and Caroline Langfeld, Tim Masek, Donna McDonald, Brad and Deb Nelson, Enrique and Stephanie Ponticas, Tim and Barb Skillings) reflected on our mission and vision for the parish, and produced a plan to focus on five key goals or initiatives. In summary the plan looks as follows:

OUR MISSION: Make disciples of Jesus Christ by bringing people into a loving, personal relationship with God, living in the power of the Holy Spirit, and in communion with The Catholic Church.

OUR VISION:
The Church of Saint Paul is a vibrant, Christian community where we celebrate our faith by:
* Forming lives in accordance with Scripture and teachings of the Catholic Tradition
* Committing to prayer and The Word of God
* Enthusiastically participating in Liturgy and the Sacraments
* Sharing the Faith
* Building our community through Stewardship and Service
* Identifying and nurturing the Gifts and Fruits of The Holy Spirit

KEY GOALS/INITIATIVES:
A: Communion
1. Reduce tension between/integrate different spiritualities
2. Provide better pastoral care to people feeling excluded or disconnected

B: Mission
3. Provide training and motivation on how to evangelize
4. Educate people about social justice; promote and recruit for service

C: Administration
5. Improve communication in areas regarding parish governance, planning, and financial stewardship

With this framework as a guide, I would now like to turn over the work of fleshing out this plan and implementing it to our Parish Pastoral Council, our staff, and various ministries that can help carry it forward. While this plan is not meant to be comprehensive of all areas of parish life, it will help us focus on some specific areas of growth for our parish community. I want to thank the GROW committee members very
much for their dedication and hard work, and I thank all of you parishioners who helped us with your feedback in the survey. Please continue to keep our parish community in your prayers as we seek to discern and do the will of God in our lives.

STAFF CHANGES: Over the summer we said goodbye to Matt Brounstein, our Director of Children’s Religious Education, and Jolene Gerads, our Director of Youth Catechesis. We are very grateful for the wonderful service they gave to our parish.

With the opening of their positions, we did some restructuring of job positions in the faith formation area. Sue Klejeski has been hired as the new Coordinator of Family Formation (previously she was serving as Administrative Assistant to Family Formation). Sue will be guided and assisted by our DRE, Sean Lavell, especially in regards to the adult faith formation component of the parents involved in the program, and also assisted by Laurie Mueller, our Family Formation Associate, who will be assuming some of the hours and responsibilities previously held by other positions before this restructuring.

Our Distance Family Formation Ministry exists to make our in-house Family Formation Program available to other parishes who wish to model their program after our own. Several such parishes and the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas have requested that our program be made available in Spanish, and so we have hired and welcome Marissa Furness as a new part-time Family Formation Spanish Associate, who will work to translate our program into Spanish.

Abbey (Novak) Martin is the newest addition to our staff. We welcome her into her role as Director of Youth Ministry, who will serve alongside Patrick Quillan, our other Youth Minister. Together they will share responsibility for our adolescent to young adult faith formation ministries which seek to form the youth and young adults of our parish into active, faith-filled disciples of Jesus Christ.

Judy Van Den Broeke, Coordinator of Pastoral Care and Outreach, and Bev Green, Coordinator of Liturgy and Music, who previously served as administrative assistants in their respective areas will both assume some increased responsibilities and hours in their new positions as the Coordinators responsible for overseeing these areas.

Finally, Amanda Sanoski who has been serving as Youth/Education Administrative Assistant will become our Coordinator of Communications/Administrative Assistant to the Pastor and some of her former duties will be assumed by Justine Domagall, our Youth Program Assistant.

With these changes I am hopeful that our staff will be in a good position to continue to maintain and improve our already strong faith formation and worship ministries, and to strengthen our pastoral care and outreach ministries and improve communications as called for in our pastoral plan. Please continue to keep our entire wonderful staff in your prayers that God will continue His good work in and through them as they serve our parish community.

God’s blessings be with you all!

Fr. Tim

October 2014