

Notes from May 29, Parish gathering with Judy Rhodes

Question 1 – What moment in the life of our parish have you most felt the Holy Spirit's presence?

- 1) Fair – when it all “came together” Ah ha! I survived the fair
 - 2) Faith Alive weekend 2003
 - 3) Combined worship of all services 2002
 - 4) Pilgrimage of Youth to Ireland 7 youths 7 adults
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- 1) New organ selected – whole process of renovation, work, disagreement, stress, Holy Spirit – Easter, Michael organist
 - 2) Coordinating stations for youth – called people and they said yes! Beautiful event
 - 3) Easter Breakfast – no direction and it came together
 - 4) Altar guild – preparation and beauty in worship
Times of stress and times of coming together
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- 1) Baptism on Maundy Thursday
 - 2) LEM visit to home bound
 - 3) Doxology at fair
 - 4) Knowing you are home!
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- 1) Doxology moment @ fair – taking on a huge project – stress, nerves, etc., transformed ah ha!
 - 2) Community service – combined
 - 3) Faith Alive weekend
 - 4) Rev. Peggy – as interim priest – initial fear with Jim's leave taking – natural transition – dis-ease disappeared
 - 5) Beautiful service for Donna – hope and beauty
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- 1) Faith Alive weekend – RC serves us
 - 2) Cursillo weekend experiences
 - 3) Small group meals – foyer groups
 - 4) Diocesan election and ordination – Ian - interconnectedness

Common theme – no matter what happens all part of one body, one community
Communion cross – Seabury anniversary

- 1) Take communion near death – wash feet
 - 2) Grandchildren – 2 baptized here
 - 3) Retreat at Holy Cross Monastery
 - 4) Showing up – being there
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- 1) Faith Alive
 - 2) Transformation of choir experience when Michael Salazar – joy to attend – make music

- 3) Even without organist – beauty and joy
 - 4) Funeral – Barbara – to give thanks and express their love – Paul – celebration of life – signed altar cloth
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- 1) Luncheon for St. Theresa’s Church
 - 2) Healing prayer on Sat. night – children’s participation and prayer
 - 3) Faith Alive

Question 2 – When, in the life of our parish, have you felt that the Holy Spirit was most absent?

- 1) When Donna Downs departed
- 2) Cell tower issue
- 3) Aftermath of Bishop Robinson – how not handled – no conversation – no public conversation
- 4) When Jim Wheeler 20 yrs. Last few weeks here but absent
- 5) When Doug left before – left 1987 – 8-10 years here
- 6) When Donna left – unanswered questions
- 7) Years ago – not present “abandoned by spiritual leadership
- 8) Diocese didn’t seem to notice, respond
- 9) Specific organist fired – choir members had to try out
- 10) Donna first came with joy and hope – out of wounded-ness she seemed to blame
- 11) When we felt angry, hurt, frustrated

Choir master – alienated – not dealt with
 Swept under rug
 Death of a mother
 Donna’s departure – whole process
 Cell tower
 Doug
 Donna’s sudden departure – rumors – no answered questions

Question 3 – What is the most important thing you can do as a parish to help God’s mission thrive? (We did not spend a lot of open time with this)

(I think this sheet is a summary of what we can do next)

Forgiving is not equal to forgetting
 It is remembering and letting go

Talk through –

- open mind
- more comfortable with different feelings, experiences, opinions

Vociferous discussion – to stay with the process – trust to discern and move along

Déjà vous – argued fought prayed soul searching for a leader

Great Failure! Punished by Diocese

Lack Transparency

Question 4 – Describe two or three hopes you have for this time in the parish.

(Next sheet seemed to follow more along this question)

Trust

Safe communication

Peggy – Joy

Under Greg's leadership – discussion

Why, what happened, what went wrong

Didn't want to be the bad guys

Claim a new moment – frank, open, disc.

More of the same

Greg and Judy - support

PIC with Greg

Communication/transparency

All parties, trust, grieve, move along

Then?

First time willing to mention Donna's name

Felt punished, Donna at another parish

Parish life has not moved along in same freedom

Tonight = New Beginning

Hopeful

Maintain faith, openness

Answers - ??

Youth and Children – parents – where are they represented?