

St Martin de Porres Church
2006 Parish Survey
January 14, 2007

Dear Parishioners,

In May, after several months of preparation, our Parish council invited you to participate in our parish survey. It was an opportunity for you to express your comments, criticisms and commendations on a variety of topics that impact the life of our parish.

As you will see in the summary of the survey, which will be included as an insert in next week's bulletin, we are a diverse parish with a number of views. As your pastor, the survey gave me a good glimpse of how those of you who responded think about the state of our community of faith. It was instructive and inspirational for me to read each and every one of the responses and I am attempting to respond to as many of your suggestions as I can. I also know that you can appreciate that not everyone's suggestions can or will be implemented. In a number of cases, comments conflicted with one another; this was significantly true in the area of liturgy especially with regard to music, which is so personal to each of our experiences of and expressions of our relationship with God. As a result of your comments, these are some suggestions that have been implemented or are in the process of evaluation:

- a suggestion box will be placed at the entrance of the Church
- new traffic signs to improve traffic flow
- more senior/handicapped parking
- no C. Y.O. games during the 5:00 PM Mass on Saturday
- development of a Youth group for those who have received the sacrament of confirmation (a planning group is already meeting)
- a parents support group is being planned
- introduction of the 9:00 AM Sunday Family Mass
- a children's and youth choir
- a feasibility study has begun to consider a second public bathroom in the church the renovation of the kitchen in the school and the enhancement of the Parish Lounge
- the front of the Nativity Center will be refurbished in the Spring

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- the relocation of our information sign and cross on Cedar Valley Road
- the playground has been completed
- a Parish Welcoming Kit is in the process of development along with more communication about opportunities to volunteer for our many parish ministries
- more adult faith development and renewal sessions are being planned
- use of our bulletin and web-site to enhance communication between the parish community and our education and catechetical endeavors

May I express my sincere gratitude to our Parish Council President, Mrs. Carol Neisser and her committee for the hours of work that they put into the development, distribution and compilation of the survey and its data. This Parish Council effort was an example of the type of competence and generosity that exists in our parish. The survey was a professional and informational success for the ongoing vitality of our community of faith and worship.

The Parish Council has spent its last three meetings receiving the data of the survey. I was so pleased to see the number of parishioners who accepted the invitation to come to the meetings and to hear and comment on the reports that were presented. A final meeting sponsored by the Parish Council is scheduled for Thursday, February 15th. After you have read the summary in next week's bulletin, we hope you will come to the Nativity Center to share your observations as to how we can continue to build up the Body of Christ in St. Martin de Porres Parish.

May this New Year of the Lord, 2007, grace us with wisdom and strength as we as individuals and as a parish grow into our full stature in Jesus Christ.

Gratefully yours in Christ
Msgr. James P. Sullivan
Pastor