

PASTOR'S CORNER

A priest friend shared that, on arriving in a new parish, he spent the first few months trying to get to know his parishioners on a more personal basis. He visited them in their homes. They convened in groups of 15-20. The visit consisted of introductions, fellowship, sharing of what people loved about their parish, and sharing of their hopes and dreams for the parish. He said the visits were hugely successful in helping to form a bond between him and his people and in helping him to understand their experience and desires.

When I heard about this concept, I said to myself, "If I ever get back to a parish, I intend to follow suit." Here I am back in a parish and I believe the Lord wants me to make good on my resolution. Accordingly, this September, October and November, Fr. Thien and I will be available to come to your homes for a "Pastoral Home Visit." We invite you to open your home and ask family, friends and fellow parishioners to join us in groups of 15-20 for an evening of introductions, fellowship, and sharing of loves and dreams for St. Francis Parish.

Father Thien and I have set aside ten Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 P.M. and ten Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:00 A.M. for these visits. The host is not expected to offer a meal, but can provide light refreshments (optional). We will spend the first half hour on introductions, the second half hour on what everyone loves about St. Francis Parish, and the final half hour on the "wish list" for the parish.

The list of available dates for the Pastoral Home Visits is in this week's bulletin and will continue to appear in the bulletin until all the dates are taken. To sign up to host a visit on one of these dates, please call Barbara Kirn, the Parish Secretary, at 834-0340 or e-mail her at bkirn1950@yahoo.com.

It is my sincere hope that these visits will help us bond and continue the work of building up the Body of Christ in Old Metairie—toward our ultimate goal of making a relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit the center of our lives. On a closing note, I want to extend a huge thanks to Fr. T for his amazing priestly ministry at St. Francis these past 31 years and for his personal help and welcome to me over the past few months. I also thank the Parish Staff and many other of you for your very warm welcome. You have put me at ease and given me great joy about what lies ahead in our mutual work of evangelizing for Christ. God bless you.