

## **Pastor's Column**

### Using and Renting St. Joseph Hall

As you probably know, the renovation of St. Joseph Hall, formerly the Parish Church, is complete. We blessed the renovated hall on August 3 and made it available for viewing after all the weekend masses on August 3-4. Parishioner responses to the renovation have been very positive.

When the old church was converted to a hall after the new church opened, there was a major remodeling which included the removal of pews and sanctuary furniture, the installation of a new floor and the construction of modern bathrooms. The latest renovation entailed constructing a wall to seal off the back of the altar, creating storage areas for tables and chairs, painting the paneled walls white, and adding artwork to enhance the beautiful stained-glass windows. The result is, by your reviews, a hall that looks bigger and brighter.

St. Joseph Hall has become an essential facility for our parish and school. It hosts parish meetings, parish ministry activities, school activities, classes, spiritual presentations, social events and diocesan gatherings. The Hall also is rented for private functions, including showers, birthday parties and receptions. We hope that, with the latest renovation, more people will consider renting the hall for their private events.

On page 4 of the bulletin, there is a description of the facility, the fees, and the services we provide. The rental fee includes an "event insurance policy" of \$100, the cost of basic set-up and clean-up by our parish staff, and all utility costs. Please read the description for additional information.

Old Metairie doesn't seem to have an abundance of affordable rental facilities to accommodate presentations, dinners, parties and receptions for 150+ people. We hope you will consider St. Joseph Hall for your next function and that you will help us spread the word about its availability.

Thanks again to the anonymous family who donated the funds for the renovation of the Hall, and thanks to C.J. Rowden and other members of our parish staff for all their hard work in bringing this renovation to completion.

God bless,  
Fr. Joe