



*The Little Church
with a Big Heart*

St. Mary of The Mission Catholic Church - Archdiocese of Mobile

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Small Group Meetings

Three priorities are clear from our recent small group meetings. They are:

- ◇ A desire to continue working towards a more united community, promoting deeper relationships, greater communication
- ◇ A felt need to strengthen efforts of evangelization that would lead to greater personal commitment and participation
- ◇ A recognition of the need for a bigger space, that at the same time, preserves the coziness of St. Mary of the Mission.

Today, I wish to address #1: A desire to continue working towards a more united community, promoting deeper relationships, greater communication. This priority is mentioned more frequently in the English speaking members of the parish. There is a longing for things of the past such as coffee/doughnuts, spaghetti dinners, fish fries, men's club, women's auxiliary, etc. These were moments in which deeper relationships were formed, strengthening a sense of community. Presently, there is recognition that people have become older, meaning there is less energy to promote and organize these types of activities.

On my part, the light could not be greener for renewing these activities. Perhaps, they would need to be modified given the reality of people is different than in the past. Perhaps, we need to be more creative in providing moments of sharing, of creating deeper relationships. It also means that someone needs to step up to the podium and take the baton.

There is also interest, again from English speaking members, of creating more opportunities of interaction with members who speak Spanish. Language and cultural differences are recognized as a barrier. Two suggestions are mentioned: more bilingual celebrations and common work projects.

A word about unity. What unites us is a common objective and common criteria: proclaim the Reign of God's love by living a deep faith in Jesus Christ committing ourselves to community, gospel values and humble service of others, especially the poor. The early Church recognized that that is what unites Jew and Gentile, Greek and no Greek, etc. Paul reminds us that we are one Body but with many different members, each with their gift and role.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Our emergency food distribution program ended in August. Since March 2020, this program distributed food to families in need. Thanks to St. Marys parishioners for their labor and financial help. Although this program has ended, there is still much need in our community. If you wish to make a donation to Society of St. Vincent de Paul, it can be placed in the weekly offering or sent to the church office.

Food Sale

There will be a food sale next weekend 9/25 y 9/26. All proceeds are for the needs of St. Mary's Parish.

Collections

8/30/21 \$3,108

9/6/21 \$3,755

9/13/21 \$03,174