

A DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

ST. JEROME PARISH

December 2007

CHARTING A NEW COURSE

St. Jerome is charting a new course for its future! Parish leaders have identified the need to plan for St. Jerome's future in all areas of parish life. During the next ten months, our parish family will create a Long-Range Advancement Plan.

Working with St. Jerome on this important task is the Institute of School and Parish Development (ISPD). ISPD, headquartered in New Orleans, LA, is a national development consulting firm that works exclusively with Catholic parishes, schools and dioceses throughout the country. They will guide us through our strategic planning process.

Beginning with this update, you will be kept informed about various activities and programs geared toward community input. There will be many opportunities available for everyone to help us create a dynamic future for St. Jerome.

GETTING STARTED

The process to create St. Jerome's Long-Range Advancement Plan has already begun. ISPD has been working with the parish to assess our present situation in several key areas of development: governance, involvement of people, stewardship, communication, marketing, and others. As part of this process, ISPD personally interviewed 22 members of our parish and community on Sept. 19 and 20, 2007 and reviewed key materials and publications. An official report was presented at the first Core Team meeting in October.

INVOLVEMENT

There will be many opportunities to get involved in this process. Through input sessions, the parish

planning team, the parish wide convocation, and the back of this form, we welcome your input into this process! Please be open and responsive to our invitation to be involved!

THE CORE TEAM

St. Jerome's newly formed Core Team (CT) will lead this planning process for our community. These volunteers represent the diverse ministries and interests of our parish family. The (CT) has committed themselves to help give their best direction and wisdom to St. Jerome and will work closely with ISPD to facilitate our planning process. Members of the Core Team Members are:

Ray Barrilleaux	Rose Mary Bardales
Gail Bordelon	Michael Buisson
Meg Casler	Vielcka de Correa
Juan Gutierrez	Carlos Hernandez
Artie Kirsch	Stephen Manqer
Martha Narvaez	Debbie Pinney
Miquel Reconco	Audrey Scheuermann
Van-Ha Tran	

PLANNING TIMELINE

December:	Finalize Planning/Commission Areas of Focus
January:	Form a Parish Planning Team to help create the Draft Plan / Conduct Input Sessions
Feb. - May:	Continue to work with the Parish Planning Team
June:	Host a parish-wide Convocation to invite input into the Draft Plan
July:	Review Convocation input and finalize Plan
August:	Present final Long-Range Advancement Plan to the parish

This is an exciting time at St. Jerome. Please join us in praying for the success of this effort for our St. Jerome family!

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

If you would like to offer your perspective at this time, please do so by completing this page and returning it to the parish office by mail, in person or through the Sunday collection. The parish office address is: 2400 33rd Street, Kenner, LA 70065.

Thanks for taking the time to give your best ideas for the future of St. Jerome!

1. Please list the current strengths of our parish.

2. During this process we will continue to remind ourselves that we are working to provide a stronger parish. Please list the current areas that you feel need improvement at St. Jerome.

3. Be creative! If you could snap your fingers, what would you change at St. Jerome today?

Name (optional) _____