

## FAITH IN OUR FUTURE

### Parishioner Input Drives Faith in our Future Initiative Forward

By Mike Rodriguez

I recently had a chance to view (for the umpteenth time) the movie, *Field of Dreams* with my two children. Two significant themes that were presented during the movie were; "If you build it they will come", and "Go the distance." This inspiring movie captured the importance of having dreams, pursuing some and not others, making important life decisions, and healing past hurts.

You may be asking yourself, "What does this have to do with Good Shepherd's Faith In Our Future Initiative?" Actually, I think that many of these important themes can be applied to where Good Shepherd is in our progress with this important initiative thus far. "If you build it they will come." The Faith In Our Future leadership team/Pastoral Council have been building this initiative behind the scenes for over a year now. We, as a core team, are growing as a result of a number of talented and dedicated selfless people.

On November 9, we

gathered as a parish for a final Town Hall meeting which served to prioritize our needs and begin to build Good Shepherd's specific case statement. The case statement will help us to focus on how the 60% portion of our pledged funds will be utilized here at Good Shepherd. If you did not have the chance to share your preferences at our Nov 9 Town Hall meeting, please talk to one of your pastoral council members.

Along with input from the pastoral council, we as a core team will continue to finalize the above case statement during the next few months for final Archdiocesan trustee approval to take place by the end of January. The parish council will make the final decisions as to where our portion of the funds will be used. Suffice it to say, we are still in the building stage of this initiative.

"Go the distance." Our timeline will continue from now through the next three years. The next few months represent the preparation/awareness months.

The month of May 2009, represents Commitment Weekend and will be an important event in our "going the distance." The final 36 months remind us of the importance of follow-up for going the distance as a parish. It is clearly going to be more of a marathon vs a sprint over the next three years.

Some closing thoughts. The core leadership team will be meeting again on November 19 to further summarize the priorities and input that we received during the November 9 Town Hall meeting. You can anticipate seeing the results of this summary soon via emails, bulletin articles and the Good Shepherd website.

In the meantime we invite you to consider asking yourself, how are you being called to be a part of this important endeavor. We need you to help us continue building this initiative so that we can go the distance in creating Good Shepherd's own *Field of Dreams* for the future!

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## WELCOME FR. MICH ON DECEMBER 20 & 21

by Nancy Hassenfelt

The new date for Fr. Mich's Welcome Home party is the weekend of December 20 and 21. The date was moved up from January 17 because we did not want to wait that long to welcome Fr. Mich home.

We will gather in Daniels Hall after the 4:30 Mass on Saturday, and after the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Masses on Sunday. Join us for food and beverages and an opportunity to learn more about Fr. Mich's wonderful Experience of God.

