

Dear Friends:

I wanted to take some time to inform you of an incredible opportunity we have to enhance our Youth Ministry Program at St. Isidore Parish. During the Strategic Planning Process in 2006 the parish determined that the number one goal is to increase Youth Participation in the parish to 300 youth. To help us achieve that goal, we hired David Heimann as our Director of Youth Ministry in August of 2008. In addition to continuing our current Youth Ministry Program, David has been working with our Youth Facilitators and Teens to develop plans for the future. These conversations have led to the realization that we need a place to gather our teens on a weekly basis for their formation activities. The difficulty of making that need a reality is that the space at St. Isidore does not allow for more than 40 small groups to meet on a weekly basis.

Those limitations have forced us to think “outside the box.” Those thoughts have led us to pursue some lease opportunities in the many vacant spaces in our area. We are confident now that we have found a suitable space at a reasonable rate that we would like to try to obtain to become the St. Isidore Parish Center for Youth Catechesis. Our plan has been presented to the Parish Council for comments and we are in initial discussions with the Village to determine if the Village would grant a Special Use Permit for the building located at 78 Stratford Dr. (the former Honey Baked Ham store). Before we go much further with those discussions, we want to formally present the plan, answer your questions and more importantly hear your suggestions. We invite you to join us to a Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, May 13th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center Gymnasium. We will also present the plan to the parish at the Masses on the weekend of May 16th and 17th.

Obviously, the main concern is the affordability of such a proposal. Our plan entails soliciting individual and corporate sponsors to cover the lease and the majority of other expenses involved in opening Center for Youth Catechesis. The parish investment would be minimal.

Our goal is to open the Center by October 2009. There are a lot of pieces that have to come together to make this opportunity a reality by that date, so many things are happening concurrently to try to meet that deadline. It is not that we are presuming your support or approval, but we are investigating Village and Diocesan approval, funding commitments, Parish Council and Parishioner approval, and finalizing lease terms at the same time because it is the only way to reach our deadline for opening if approved. We will not sign a lease until we have a better sense of parishioner support, Village approval, and funding commitments. Be assured that you will be fully informed of the proposal at the Town Hall Meeting, at Mass and through updates in the bulletin as we continue to pursue this opportunity. In the meantime, please pray that God will lead us where HE feels it is best for us to go and how HE feels we can best minister to our young people and so allow them to minister to others through a well formed faith life.

Peace,

