



# A Wide Open Invitation

## Notes from the Parish Council

The April 30 parish council meeting was a great opportunity to brainstorm about how we might begin, in an organized manner, to re-introduce our parish to the wider neighborhood. **A few thoughts stood out, having consensus support:**

The **Hillcrest Neighborhood Association** ([hillcrestdc.com](http://hillcrestdc.com)) is an active forum for a large part of our parish territory. Council agrees that it would be good for Fr. De Rosa to begin attending Association meetings. Members of the parish and parish council who are residents of Hillcrest are encouraged to take part, get to know new residents and bring stories/invitations from our parish community to the neighborhood association.

**Sunday Breakfasts** - Following the good example of Queen of Peace Parish, and with some extra funding from the parish budget two members of the parish council will be working with Mrs. Bowman (our current point person on Sunday Breakfasts) to raise the bar on quality and quantity to make it an even more inviting parish event for all!

**Fall Festival** - will take place this year on October 7, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Volunteers are welcome from the school and church community! The Festival will involve a Marian procession, mass, and catechesis, as well as lots of food and fun activities for families. Mark your calendars!

A member of the Parish Council will begin exploring with Fr. De Rosa the possibility of a **parish retreat** at a nearby retreat center!

**Separately, we have been researching the possibility of a stair lift** to help parishioners who have trouble walking up the stairs from the street level to the church. Given the cost of the project, the council recommends Fr. De Rosa poll parishioners directly at Sunday mass. There are mixed thoughts about how much regular use a stair lift might get.

(continued on reverse with Q&A from Parishioners...)

### The Communal Life

*“They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.” - Acts 2:42*

These words summarize the existence of the first Christian community, led by the Apostles themselves, within days of the Resurrection. What a blessing it is to be able to say that nothing has changed in all the intervening years. To the right, you’ll find a summary of last Sunday’s parish council meeting. Please continue to pray for the good and the growth of our beautiful St. Francis Xavier Parish Community!

*-Fr. De Rosa*

# Questions and Answers

## Can we have a parish suggestion box again?

Absolutely. This is the first time that I've heard that such a thing ever existed here. While I don't know what may have happened to the old one, I'm happy to arrange for a new one. One small consideration: As we start using a suggestion box again, only suggestions with a name and phone number will be read and responded to.

## Can we have a seder meal again next year?

It sounds like a fine idea, but let's discuss it next January in preparation for Lent.

## Why hasn't Deacon Daniels been giving homilies on the third Sunday of the month?

Deacon and I had a great conversation when I arrived at St. Francis Xavier. He kindly agreed to take a temporary break from preaching on the third Sunday so that the congregation and I could get to know each other. I have no problem with Dcn. Daniels resuming his third Sunday preaching, and will be in touch with him to discuss the matter.

Parishioners might also like to know that at his request, Deacon Daniels has been helping with sick/homebound visits and keeping me apprised of how our sick parishioners are doing.

One consideration: all permanent deacons have formal assignments from the Cardinal (just as priests do). Dcn. Daniels is assigned to Holy Redeemer on NY Avenue. It's always a pleasure to have him here with us, but I will always try to respect his commitment to his formal assignment in NW.

*May*  
*A Month for Mary, A Month for*  
*Mothers*

**Masses on Sunday May 14 will be offered for the Mother's of the Parish, Especially**

**Mothers:**

Estela Valencia, Nelly Valeno-Wills, Mamie, Cunningham,  
Jessie Wills

**Requested By:**

James Wills