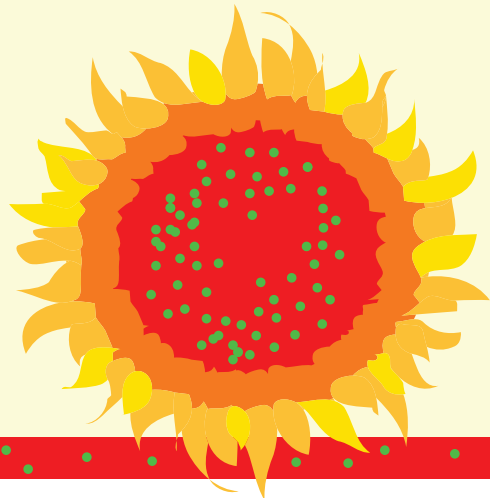


This 2010 celebration of Pentecost is a reminder that we, the community of St. John Fisher, are sent to be witnesses of the Risen Christ knowing that Jesus' words to his disciples are words to us: "Know I am with you always; yes, to the end of time!" (Mt. 28:20) And so we pray:

Most holy and ever-guiding Spirit, bless this work of our community as we continue to discern your call in our lives, enabling us to become Christ's Presence in a world so in need of your love and compassion. Lead us as we consider what you are asking of us as the fruit of this Year of Renewal. Bless us and bless the work that we commit ourselves to in your Holy Name. Amen



A Pastoral **LETTER**

***from the St. John Fisher Community to
the St. John Fisher Community In Response
to the 2009/2010 Year of Renewal***

Dear Members of the St. John Fisher Chapel University Parish,
On Pentecost 2003, we, the Saint John Fisher Parish Family, proclaimed our willingness to continue our Faith Journey by acknowledging the challenges identified at that time. Now seven years later and following a year of prayer, discussion, and reflection, we gather again on Pentecost 2010 to proclaim both who we are, and who we want to become.

The challenges we encountered in 2003 remain - we have grown together as a community of believers, we have heard the call of the Gospel, and we have responded. We know we are a "pilgrim people", moving forward daily and yet far from realizing God's Dream for our world.



Through our reflection during this 2009/2010 Year of Renewal - at our liturgies, presentations and group discussions - we have affirmed **what makes us a people of faith, i.e.:**

- ☞ We believe that our experience of God and hearing the call of the Gospel come through prayer, liturgies and service lived in and through our relationships and our community;
- ☞ We believe that our response to the call of the Gospel requires a constant process of forming our conscience and discerning how God calls us;
- ☞ We believe that our Faith encompasses every aspect of our life.

As we affirm who we are, we are also growing in awareness of what needs to be done to continue our response to an ever-demanding Gospel. The challenges facing us today are a call to our community and will require, through our parish leadership, ongoing responses with action in the coming years. During this Year of Renewal **three major areas were identified** that St. John Fisher Parish will address:

- ☞ **The call to live our "Faith into Action"** as James reminds us in his Letter (2:29) to the Diaspora: "*Do realize that faith without good deeds is useless!*" This call to action is addressed to individuals and the community as a whole. It

requires works of charity as well as a more prophetic role of the community, i.e. to establish justice in our communities, our country, and our world.

- ☞ **The call to deepen our understanding of what it means to be Church today.** The Church is facing a crisis in its own institutional identity and in trying to define its relationship to the world. The demographics of the Church are changing, and while many are questioning the institutional structure, we face the danger of isolation and losing the identity of what it means to be the Catholic Church in the world today.

- ☞ **The call to find a new paradigm of relationship with our young adults** (18 to 35 year olds - both singles and young families): to be a more inclusive and welcoming community with them. Some members in this age group find themselves alienated from the Church. Rather than asking, "*Where are they?*" we ask, "*How can we be with them wherever they are?*"

These challenges can be daunting and will certainly call us to be more than who we are today. We are called to further renewal, to a new spirit in our community. We are also called to action. In the coming year we, as a community, with the help of the Parish Council, the Pastoral Team and all the people involved in the many ministries, will work to translate these challenges into concrete actions.

