

LOOKING THROUGH STAINED GLASS

A Column by Fr. Tom

Our Community, or “Common-unity”, begins with a Common Language

In the last couple of columns, we discussed being one Parish Family and two signs of our unity – the Parish Crest or logo and the Parish Vision Statement. These signs begin to give us a commonality on which to build. Like any family, we also have a common language. Most of our common language comes from the larger family of the Universal Church of which we are a part. For example, if I talk about the Gospel, the Eucharist or the Creed, the people of our parish know of what I am speaking. To continue this adoption of speaking a common language, we as a parish have some terms that we generally know. For example, if I mention “Caritas,” many of the people of the parish would know that I am most likely talking about the parish retreat.

As a group of our parishioners looked at our parish, we discovered one area where we had some confusion in our language. It was in the naming of different rooms and buildings on our campus. Everybody had their own name for different places. For example, the large building was called “the 3-story building” by some, “the administration building” by others, and “the parish center” or “the classroom building” by still others. Taking a survey of many people in the parish, we have established common names for the various rooms and buildings on campus.

The names that were selected come from our tradition as a Catholic parish and as a parish that was established by the Passionists. Since the parish is named after the founder of the Passionists [**St. Paul of the Cross**], the large office/

classroom building was given the name of another great Passionist saint and so became the **St. Gabriel Building**. As we already had the **Ave Maria Banquet Hall**, we named the smaller hall, **St. Joseph Hall**, which had been known by some as the *Parish Hall*. The smallest of the conference rooms, formerly known as the *KaffeeHaus*, was renamed the **All Saints Room**, in honor both of the saints of our Catholic tradition and the meetings of “saints-in-training” that happen there.

Once the names of the various rooms and buildings were established, we set about putting the appropriate signage in place, so that it will be easier to identify each space, both for members of the parish and for our guests. Many people have noticed the beautiful new signs around our parish campus and have had positive comments. In addition, the new signs have already helped many people find their way to a meeting or event. I want to thank Deacon Frank Bandy and his company, **Aresys Inc.**, for assisting us with this effort by fabricating these fantastic signs. The project is nearly complete (a large, lighted directional sign is set to be installed soon), but we are well on our way to unifying the parish grounds and place names. This is one more step in accentuating our common language, our “common-unity”, our community, our one Parish Family of St. Paul of the Cross.

