



*STM Pastoral Council*

## *News from St. Thomas More Pastoral Council...*

### **Leadership Discernment**

At the end of June 2009, terms will expire for four of our current 12 Pastoral Council members. We will again be using the discernment process to select incoming members.

#### **What is Leadership Discernment?**

Leadership discernment is an alternative to parish elections for selecting members to serve on Pastoral Council. The discernment process is an attempt to determine God's will for a particular situation. In our case, we seek to know God's will regarding who is called to serve the parish community through leadership on the Pastoral Council. The process invites those who wish to serve to examine their gifts and talents through prayer, discussion, and reflection, and then consider how they can best serve the parish community by using their unique gifts. Discernment requires us to move beyond our reliance on cognition and intellectual hard work to a place of deep listening and response to the Spirit of God within us and among us. Discernment begins through one's own prayerful preparation and continues through two communal sessions. Prayer by the entire St. Thomas More community is integral to the success of the discernment process.

In Jesus' words: "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain" (John 15:16).

Please give prayerful consideration to serving on the Pastoral Council yourself, and/or to nominating someone else beginning the weekend of April 18-19. If you have any questions, please contact a Pastoral Council member (phone numbers are listed in our bulletin and also on our website at [www.stmore.org](http://www.stmore.org)).

*Please read more about the Discernment  
Process on the reverse side of this page*



## ***News from St. Thomas More Pastoral Council... (continued)***



### ***The Discernment Process***

The following process has been recommended by the Pastoral Council and approved by Father Pat Reynolds.

1. The Pastoral Council will consist of 12 members with one-third of the Council being replaced every year. For the current year, we will replace the outgoing four Council members; these new members will serve a three-year term.
2. Open nominations will be held from April 18 through April 27.
  - a. Any parishioner 18 years or older may be nominated either by another parishioner (including current Council members), the Pastor, or self-nomination.
  - b. Nomination forms will be distributed during Masses the weekend of April 18-19 and available in the bulletin April 25-26. Forms will also be available on the website April 18-27. Nominations may be submitted by placing a nomination form in the offertory basket at all Masses throughout the week, by completing the interactive nomination form on our website, or by emailing or calling Lois Bell in the Parish Office at [lois@stmores.org](mailto:lois@stmores.org) or 534-9000.
3. A letter will be sent to all nominees informing them of their nominations and inviting them to attend a Pastoral Council informational meeting. The letter will be followed by a phone call from a Pastoral Council member to verify willingness to be listed as a nominee and to answer any questions the nominee may have. By attending the informational meeting you are not committing to serve, but rather to give prayerful consideration to your calling. Those continuing with the process will be asked to attend a final discernment meeting. Through this process of mindful discovery we pray that we are blessed with the ability to discover Christian leaders that work together in a spirit of love, trust, and collaboration.

***St. Thomas More Website:*** [www.stmores.org](http://www.stmores.org)