

ENGAGING THE SPIRIT

Upcoming Merrillville concert meets synod evangelization goal

BY VANESSA NEGRETE
Northwest Indiana Catholic

Parishioners at two Merrillville churches are getting ready to implement one of their synod goals by hosting an afternoon of evangelization in the form of songs and speakers.

"We are really hoping it might bring some new people into the Church," said Pat Mistak, synod goal champion at Ss. Peter & Paul.

The parish will co-host "Christ in Concert" with sister parish St. Joan of Arc. The program is described in promotional materials as a spiritual and musical presentation for Catholics, ones who have been away from the Church, those interested in the Catholic faith and anyone wanting spiritual revival and inspiration.

The presentation begins at 3 p.m. Sept. 16 at Ss. Peter & Paul, 5885



Harrison St., Merrillville. Musicians and choirs from throughout the diocese will perform music related to each of seven brief talks, an idea that came from the pastor, Rev. James Meade.

Mistak said the concert is designed for people to draw connections between the music and the talks.

"It helps entice the brain in thinking about what the discussion is," she said.

"We're really hoping it's going to help people in their faith."

She said concerts at the parish tend to be popular because the choir and musicians are so talented.

When Bishop Donald J. Hying encouraged parishes to include evangelization as an area of focus in their synod plan, Father Meade knew he wanted to involve music in the plan.

The program uses music as a catechetical tool to evangelize, talking about Christ and the Catholic Church, said Laura Monteen, director of music at Ss. Peter & Paul.

The topics of the talks are deep, but speakers are limited to five minutes in order to keep the program moving. Among the topics are, "What is the purpose of my life?" "What is discipleship?" and Church history, she said.

The speakers are: Bishop Hying; Father Meade; Trina Lynch-Jackson; Cliff Jenkins; Deacon Malcolm Lunsford; Deacon Steven Zubel; and Sister Joanne Marie Schutz.

Monteen, who will direct the choir, said

some of the music will be reflective and some upbeat, depending on the related topic. Melinda Reinhart, director of music at St. Joan of Arc, is also involved in the concert and will perform.

All are welcome to attend the free concert, including those who are not Catholic. Monteen said the event also would be good for older children, such as junior high and high school students, or anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic faith.

"Christ in Concert" will be recorded on DVD so the program can be shared with people in a catechetical way, Monteen said.

To tell us how your parish is following the Holy Spirit's lead in this synod process, contact Vanessa Negrete at vnegrete@dcgary.org or 769-9292, ext. 246.

"Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!"

~ PSALM 150:1-6

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