



#### **Article - Vision Statement #8:**

**"The church will expand its role in the larger community by becoming a frequent host of regional diocesan services and events."**

*The guest writer for this week's article is David Jaeger, chair of the Master Plan Committee.*

There are three strategic objectives associated with this statement, they are:

- Adjustments will be made to the church to accommodate large liturgies sponsored by the Archdiocese and other organizations.
- The development of a connected reception center that encourages an extension of special Masses will be created.
- Provide safe and convenient parking as well as accessibility to the church.

The first and last vision statements are the only two of the eight that had a particular order to them. To be more specific the first statement "We will put the Gospel and teachings of the Catholic church into action, welcoming and including all people" sets the tone for all the other visions that follow. This last vision statement further recognizes our larger role in the community and suggests that we make necessary changes to accommodate that role. It is last because our parishioners directed us to recognize this issue, but at the same time make sure we do not lose our heritage as a community parish.

For those who may not be aware, the efforts that have gotten us to this point in the Master Plan have been accomplished by a great number of people in the parish. Going back to the original needs assessment, many provided input on what aspects of the parish need enhancement. One of the resonating comments was that we not lose our heritage as a parish community by focusing too strongly on the National Shrine issues or our role in the diocese. It was also noted by many that if in the process of meeting our own needs we strengthen our capability to host larger events than we should do so. In looking at the strategic objectives noted above, all of them are issues we have to deal with as a parish irrespective of our larger role in the community.

Adjusting the church to accommodate larger liturgies is important first and foremost for our own parishioners. By accomplishing our needs we also provide opportunities for the larger community beyond Shrine. The development of a connected reception center, as well as safe and convenient parking, is essential to accomplish many of the important objectives we have in the Master Plan. Other opportunities throughout the year will afford the National Shrine parish to meet the needs of own parishioners and enhance our presence in the community.

For those of us who have written these articles over the past few weeks we hope they have helped explain the basic objectives of the parish vision. They have been created to provide us all with a framework to enhance parish life and with hope put us closer to understanding our role in living the Gospel.