Meet the St. Paul Senior Leadership Team

Today, we hear from Janie —

When I moved to Mississippi in 1991, I hadn’t been attending Mass for the previous 10 years. As God would have it, I rented an apartment, sight unseen, not knowing it was only a block from St. Richard Church in Jackson. Within the first couple of months, I met someone who invited me to come to a “prayer meeting” at St. Richard. I told her that I hadn’t been going to Mass and she said, “That’s OK, just come to the prayer meeting.”

The first time I went, I met Father Richard Somers as it was his Catholic Charismatic Renewal prayer meeting held in the cafeteria at the school. I tried to hide in the last row at the meeting, but as we were praying, he walked down the center aisle and told me, “You need prayer. Come up to the front.” The group laid their hands on me, and prayed for me that night. I was terrified, but I was also hooked! The unconditional love I felt there that night brought me back to Mass, and I became a regular at the Thursday night Prayer Meeting.

Later I attended a six-week Life in the Spirit Seminar. At the end I was being prayed over to receive the Holy Spirit, and the person said, “The Lord has put on my heart to tell you that He was with you in your room.” She didn’t know what that meant, but I did—I had been worried that I wasn’t worthy to be baptized in the Spirit, and I prayed every night in my bedroom to be worthy of this Blessing. So began my development of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I felt the Holy Spirit in my life.

This is why I am so happy to be part of the Senior Leadership Team. I am excited to help Fr. Gerry bring our Parish from Maintenance to Mission. I want to help other people experience what has been such a blessing in my life — a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and welcoming The Holy Spirit in their lives.

I hope you have had time to take a look at the Divine Renovation website divinerenovation.net. I encourage everyone to install the Divine Renovation APP on your smart phones and tablets. So when you have time, explore the DR APP and take a look at some of the videos. I was in the Atlanta airport this week, and watched “Tree Planting for Parish Renewal”—it’s not about trees! It’s about the symbolism of the Three Keys as the new DR logo. The keys stand for 1) the primacy of evangelism; 2) the empowerment of the Holy Spirit; and 3) the best of leadership principles. Enjoy!

— Janie Romero

Our mission is to invite everyone into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

May 19, 2019 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter
Read of this year’s Confirmation experience from the perspective of a few of their leaders ~

“Of the real pleasures for me as a Confirmation teacher is being able to watch the students in the class grow in their understanding of our faith and grow in their relationship with God. I definitely saw that with this year’s class. Through them, my relationship with God grew as well. One of our main goals is to teach them that Christianity is not about a set of rules or a philosophy or about social justice. But rather, Christianity is really about a relationship. The rules, philosophy, and social justice are parts of and/or fruits of that relationship. If we concentrate on a relationship with Jesus Christ, the rest will fall into place. During the year, we focus on the tools of that relationship, i.e. Prayer, Scripture, Sacraments, Mass, God’s rightful place in our lives etc. As the year went on, I had a feeling that they were thinking about their relationship with God and that they were working on it. But, I can never really be sure because I only see them for about 1-2 hours a week. About a month before their Confirmation Mass, they had to write a letter to the Bishop telling him why they wanted to be confirmed. Almost all of them in some form or another mentioned that they wanted to be confirmed to strengthen their relationship with God. It was special to me that they were focused on that.

Every year at the Confirmation Mass, I am just bursting with pride at what that class has done during the year. This year, we asked the class to do more than we have ever asked before. They stepped up and did it all with a great attitude, and it really showed at their Mass. When they were all standing as a group and the Bishop was talking to them, I looked at their faces. They were all smiling. I thought, “How happy they are to be standing here today!” and “How blessed we are to pass on our Faith to such a great group!”

This year, our Confirmation Class had an amazing experience. This group has really been committed to their Faith and being a part of our youth group. Because of this, they are a very close group. The class participated in Alpha where they were mentored by adults and heard faith stories from the senior students in our parish. How amazing it was to see actively engaged small groups led by our youth! Their Confirmation Retreat was more engaging than ever because they had shared and formed relationships in their small groups. These young people found and developed a personal relationship with Christ and were drawn even closer to Him on the Retreat weekend! I have no doubt that the Holy Spirit is moving in our parish, and it excites me to witness the ripple effect it is having on our younger generation here at St. Paul!”

“We feel the Holy Spirit will help me in my life journey in the times when I get challenged the most, to help me think about the decision that will be made and how to carve that in the right path.”

“Watching the seniors live out the promise they made when they received the Sacrament of Confirmation has been such a blessing. They did an amazing job planning and leading the Confirmation Retreat for the junior class. The Holy Spirit was truly present! I have loved watching them grow in their faith over the past year!”