

## SUMMARY OF TRAINING FOR THE PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Parish Advisory Council Trip Report

January 22, 2017

JoAnn Roy

On Sunday after the 10:00 a few of us from the Parish Council met with Bishop Estevez along with Fr John at his request. At that meeting the Bishop was pleased to know that some of us were going to the training session held at Sacred Heart in Jacksonville that afternoon. The following is a summary of what Maura and I heard:

It was encouraged that we take an assessment of our parish; what is working well and what are the challenges. The presentation was about encouraging us to be “watchdogs” as a Parish Advisory Council to focus on “Forming Disciples for mission” in our Parish activities. In other words, we need to be sure we are focused in all areas of ministry to encourage a closer encounter with Christ. Just how we go about that depends on what the census is in each parish—who are we serving and what are their needs?

Some suggestions were presented that are working in other parishes: town hall meetings, total church meetings, surveys in all masses as to who the parishioners are, including children, youth and young adults. That information would help us learn what the needs are and what to focus on. Then we need to put in place ministries that will meet those needs.

Develop:

- . A sense of mission and work with other parishes.
- . A welcome ministry—more than just once a year.
- . a survey regarding what people like about our parish, what they don't like, what they would like to see.