

## The STA Archive Committee Stewardship Award

Sunday, November 1, 2009 (All Saints Day)



From L: Marguerite Purcell, Roland Quintero, Pat Briggs, Mary Beth Lefebvre, Fr. George. (Not shown: Stuart MacKenzie & Judith Scanlon.)

### Fr. George's Testimony

There's a new kid in town, the STA Archive Committee, the purpose of which is to collect, organize, preserve and make available for research the records and materials that reflect the work and activities of the parish.

Marguerite Purcell was the spark plug for this project. She and her husband Bob have been members of the parish for nearly 60 years, raised seven children here, and have participated in just about every parish activity available to this faith community.

Since Marguerite had been on the committee that brought the three worship sites together during the merger in the '80s, she was keenly motivated to ensure that a historical record was kept of that event and subsequent facts and functions. As she says, "Documents are important to show how decisions were made."

Last year she began recruiting members, and was happy when the following people joined her. Listed alphabetically, they are: Pat Briggs, Mary Beth Lefebvre, Stuart Mackenzie, Marguerite Purcell, Roland Quintero, Judith Scanlon. Stuart and Judith could not be here today to personally receive their awards.

The education and experience of these various members provide the group with skills in information technology, archiving, record-keeping, computer operation, photography and database management.

Initially, Marguerite and Roland met with the Diocesan archive manager and the archivist at St. Patrick's Seminary. Mary Beth met with me to discuss how to best categorize the records, and also crafted the committee's mission statement.

The Parish Stewardship Council subsequently agreed to support the nascent efforts of the committee by donating funds for archival-quality, acid-free folders and boxes, leaving open the possibility for more support as the work of the group progressed.

The current emphasis is on obtaining all of the PSC minutes and materials since the merger. The group is going through the files that have been stored within the parish facilities, but eventually will put out a call to parishioners to bring in any records that they may have in their homes.

This young committee meets every Friday at the Pastoral Center from 10 a.m. till noon and welcomes volunteers. You need only a willingness to learn and contribute to its mission. In addition, says Mary Beth, a nice perk is the fellowship that comes from working on a shared project.

In appreciation for the formation and continuing efforts of the STA Archives Committee, I would like to present each of you a stewardship award, and wish you all many blessings on your new endeavor.