

VOLUNTEER VISTAS

When Rachel Alvelais said "I do" at her wedding in 1992 at this parish, she had no idea she would say "I will" in 2005 to a request to coordinate the parish directory. Now that the directories are here, Rachel can say "I did it!"

But she is the first one to say she had help. "The Community Life Committee was critical to success," she says. "The members are superb at getting parish-wide tasks done." She adds, "Parishioners were wonderful about stepping forward, and I feel appreciative of the people who did whatever they could to help."

Rachel cites Helen Baumann, Micky Martin and Marguerite Purcell as crucial contacts who directed her to appropriate parishioners. She also points out the other many volunteers listed on page 16 of the directory.

It was a leap of faith that had her accept Marguerite Purcell's invitation to coordinate the directory. "I knew God would provide," says Rachel. Her first step was to choose a company that supplied how-to packets on the process. The parish database needed to be culled and edited, a job undertaken by staff person Cathy Miller and her group of volunteers. And then there were the photos. Thankfully, "It was a quiet time in my annual work cycle," says Rachel, who has a career in publishing.

Rachel is providing the parish with a written plan of the process, making things easier for whoever coordinates successive directories. "Being on the Directory Committee is one of the best jobs," Rachel says with a smile, "because you're only working once every few years."

Her efforts, she adds, provided the perk of getting to know more people in the parish, one of her goals when she accepted the task. She lives in Mountain View with her husband Rob and children Rachel Emilia, 9, and 7-year-old twins Gabriella and Teresa. For a photo of the family, simply turn to page 18 of the directory that Rachel helped develop.



Rachel Alvelais

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