

My Dear Parish Family,

If you were unable to attend our Family Fun Day, may I share what a remarkable event it was?! I appreciate each and every individual, family and group who shared time and talent to make this year's gathering a huge success. Knowing the work and effort which was necessary to feed and entertain the number of folks in attendance (1300+), I trust that everyone was blessed with a restful sleep Sunday night. I'm sure that some are still recovering!

The Family Fun Day provided an opportunity to present our proposed building, "The Norm and Caroline DeBriyn Activity Center and Meeting / Classroom Addition". Along with the building footprint outlined in paint on the grass and the preliminary design prints and model displayed, perhaps you noticed the portrait of our honorees, Norm and Caroline. It was with joy and sincere gratitude that I received the news that Norm and Caroline had humbly accepted my request to name this building in honor of their lifetime achievements. I was also uplifted when Bishop Anthony Taylor approved this naming last Friday.

I presume that you know Norm DeBriyn as the former head baseball coach of the Arkansas Razorbacks and his wife, Caroline, as the effervescent lady with the big smile. What I don't assume is that you know the entire story of their lives. Over the course of this project, you will be given an opportunity to come to know this couple as I have come to know them, through their personal commitment to their Savior, Jesus Christ, expressed in humble service, a profound prayer life and a real love for and ministry to the people around them. Were I to begin sharing stories about them, this letter would become a book. However, the list of their parochial accomplishments include (among others) acceptance into the Diocesan Diaconate Formation Program, service as EMCs at Mass and to the sick, Special Minister of Communion in the Absence of a priest, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Parish Council, School Board and PTO service. Beyond this, their accomplishments throughout their careers encouraging young men and women to health in mind, body and spirit are evident in the high regard these people hold both Norm and Caroline. In conclusion, their reputations are laudable and worthy of such a facility named in their honor. As they study together in the diaconate program along with our two other deacon aspirants Mike Henry (and wife Nancy), and Marcelino Vazquez (and wife Maria), I ask you to lift all of them up in prayer.

I hope you appreciate, as do I, the work of our CORE Team, which is vigorously working to communicate to you the scope and scale of our Master's Plan Phase II. There is a display in the Great Hall, which I know you will want to visit. A Capital Campaign to fund the project is beginning even as you read this letter. Construction is projected to begin in the late Spring of 2009. Don't forget to visit our website [www.sjfay.com](http://www.sjfay.com) to keep up with this project or offer ideas and suggestions to the CORE Team.

Would you join me in praying the Master's Plan prayer daily? This prayer was originally composed at the beginning of our relocation efforts in 1999. God heard our prayer and gave us our Chapel Center and Education Facility, in which to worship Him, to learn of His love and to share Him with each other. I have complete confidence our Father will hear our prayer once again, and bless us abundantly as we seek to do His will here in Fayetteville.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Bradley Barber