



# St. Paul on the Lake Reporter

[www.stpaulonthelake.org](http://www.stpaulonthelake.org)

Parish Mission Statement:

*St. Paul on the Lake is a vibrant Catholic Church with a strong foundation rooted in history, tradition and faith. Guided by Christ's love, Sacred Scripture and the Sacraments, we seek to provide an environment for worship and spiritual growth. Through our stewardship and the promotion of our Catholic beliefs, we will reach out as Christ's disciples in service to others.*

December 7, 2008



Second Sunday of Advent

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## From Your Pastor

I had to race out after Mass Thursday morning to an interfaith meeting at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. Cardinal Maida invited religious leaders from Christian, Jewish and Muslim congregations to a conversation about their response to the economic crisis. The Cardinal especially wanted to come together to talk about the auto industry's crisis.

As I re-read that, I realize that I've fallen into the trap some commentators have set. See, the crisis belongs to all of us. And I include labor and management, Michigan and Midwest, the entire country.

The ministers, Rabbis and Muslim leaders talked about a variety of responses. First, not surprisingly, was the need for spiritual support. Bishop Charles Ellis of Greater Grace Temple in Detroit is asking his parishioners to fast and pray on the day Congress addresses the proposal for auto industry loans.

Some spoke of the need to contact their counterparts in other states, asking them to encourage their members to contact their representatives to look at the widespread human suffering which would result.

Others spoke of the need to share information about counseling, emergency food and housing resources. I was heartened to see people from such different religious perspectives speaking and acting in solidarity (in Pope John Paul II's sense of the term) with one another. I walked out of the meeting much more hopeful than I walked into the room.

And I remembered the prophet Isaiah's words from the Mass' first reading that morning, "Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord is an eternal rock." Certainly, humanity's Enemy will use this crisis to wreak his owe, if we let him. Now, more than ever, we come together to pray, to help those less fortunate, to surrender fear to the Lord Who conquered all, even death. We're preparing to celebrate His coming, remember?

May God bless you.

Msgr. Pat Halfpenny

P.S. We had a delightful few hours at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate this past Tuesday as part of our 175<sup>th</sup> jubilee. I encourage you to look at the parish calendar for other upcoming events celebrating our anniversary of faith. Another way to keep the Enemy at bay!

P.S.S. I want to say again how grateful I am to all who continue to send in pledges for the "Led by the Spirit of God" campaign. We continue to receive 5-10 weekly. If the envelope has been collecting dust on a corner of your desk, please send it in.