

The Holy Family Pastoral Council has begun exploring the idea of becoming a twinning parish. This discussion is still in its early stages, but we'd like our parishioners to learn about the concept since we will soon be expanding the discussion to the entire parish. The paragraph below is a start.

#### WHAT IS TWINNING?

Parish twinning, also known as sister parishes or parish partnerships, is the intentional, mutual relationship between two parishes for the purpose of engendering personal relationships with people from another culture and to deepen parish consciousness of and commitment to global solidarity. Cross-cultural international mission has been integral to church life since its very beginning. For most of the church's history, however, that aspect has been accomplished primarily through professional missionaries who were sent out. Recently a new form of mission has bubbled up from the grassroots: from one parish to another through building of parish twinning relationships. In 1997 the U.S. Catholic Bishops wrote a pastoral letter entitled *Called to Global Solidarity: International Challenges for U.S. Parishes*, which invites parishes to become more conscious of and connected to our brothers and sisters around the world. The bishops suggest parish twinning as a means of such connection. Parish twinning involves visits to one another's parish so as to really get to know our brothers and sisters, their joys and their struggles, their gifts and their culture, and hopes and dreams. Parish twinning is an invitation to live our lives and faith in a spirit of global solidarity. If you would like to read *Called to Global Solidarity: International Challenges for U.S. Parishes* it can be found at the following website:

<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/globalsolidarity.shtml>