

## Celebrating our Unity in Diversity as Sacred Heart Parish Family

Our parish family has grown tremendously since the historic church, still with us, was dedicated on July 22, 1900. We owe to the faith, the generosity and work of the Mc Entees and other families, individuals, benefactors after them that our parish is one of the 80 parishes in the Dallas Diocese today. Bishop Thomas Tschoepe designated Sacred Heart Church as a parish on August 25, 1985.

We are now a parish with families of about forty different ethnic origin, culture, language and traditions. We come from different states in the United States and from Nigeria, Vietnam, Europe, Kenya, Central American countries, Mexico, India, the Philippines, and South American Countries, the Caribbean. We are a fast growing multi-cultural family, a diverse community working together towards unity as God's people in this northeastern part of the Dallas Diocese.

Every second Sunday of October since 2012, we celebrate **Sacred Heart Multi-cultural Festival**. We celebrate our diversity as families and individuals. We strive to welcome this reality as a great opportunity and accept it as a gift to learn, to share, to enrich and be enriched by each other's presence and a wealth of talents, resources, culture and practices.

We begin this important event in our parish celebrating the Eucharist on the evening before our Festival Day. Indeed, the Eucharist is the center and the true unifying moment of our life as Church, God's family. We bring Him our gifts of who we are, what we have, what we can. Blessed and enriched by Him, the true food and the true drink, we are fed and made strong as His Body, His presence among us.

Food ... eating together brings people together and strengthen unity of families, neighborhoods and parishes. The best place to eat every second Sunday of October in Rowlett is here at Sacred Heart Church because a variety of abundant and delicious food are available; these are prepared and cooked by our families serving proudly and happily the best of their cuisine and taste. And what a sight to watch, listen and be entertained by a number of dances, songs, music and talents from members of our multi-cultural parish.

It is a day of fun and games especially for our youth and young children. A designated space is reserved too for those who want to watch a football game as they taste their favorite beer.

Towards the end of the day we have the raffle draw whose proceeds together with the contributions of vendors who join us too and all sales from food, drink and games are for the Building Fund for a new bigger church at Sacred Heart. We are getting bigger as a family and certainly we need a bigger house to worship, pray and celebrate our faith as one God's family.

See ya'll this coming October 8<sup>th</sup>!!!

-Fr. Danny-

