

Developing the Paulist Center Community Endowment January 2007

In January 2006, a **Paulist Center Ad Hoc Investment Committee** held its first meeting. This was the fruit of the Center's first capital campaign, which met the goal of developing an unrestricted endowment to support ministries. The Committee was charged to decide how to invest the 1.1 million dollar endowment in a socially responsible way and to draft a proposal for how much money from the endowment should be transferred to the operations budget annually.

The Investment Committee invited members of the Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee to participate in a process to **identify principles and screens** to be used for Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) work. The participants were invited to reflect on the mission statement, strategic plan, and other documents in view of the values to be employed in SRI efforts. Sr. Ruth Rosenbaum, Ph.D., social economist and Executive Director of the Center for Reflection, Education, and Action (CREA), guided the group through the process that led to the development of the Statement of Principles. CREA staff subsequently generated a range of issues in the field related to those principles, and recommended how we can be advocates.

After examining investment policy documents from a range of organizations, the **PCC Investment Policy** was developed (see www.paulist.org/boston). This document details asset allocation (stocks/bonds/cash equivalents/community-based investments); the monitoring of portfolio performance; and related roles and responsibilities of committees and individuals.

The committee also considered and agreed that outside experts were needed at this initial phase so that the community and staff could learn more about the range of issues needed to manage our portfolio, and also to be educated on the range of activities related to SRI. They **recommended the hiring of investment managers not only for their training expertise, but also for their ability to manage the endowment on a day-to-day basis.**

After a series of rigorous interviews, the committee selected **Boston Common Asset Management. Their recommendation was based on** the excellent track record of their executives, both in investing and in the SRI field; their unique expertise in managing international investments; their ability and willingness to partner in educating the community on issues. In addition, they provide monthly financial reports which can be reviewed so that the committee is able to track monthly changes in endowment value.

The Pastoral Council reviewed and approved recommendations at every step.

AdHoc Investment Committee (January 2006 – July 2006): Sonia Caus Gleason, Paul Hogan, Sheila Connors LeDuc, Mary Lesko, Marylou Ruch, and John Tegan, Patty Simpson (staff). Additional Pastoral Council and Finance Committee Members offered input into the Investment Principles: Claire McCarthy, Mary Sullivan, Bill Wood.

2006-07 Investment Committee: Sonia Caus Gleason, Sheila Connors LeDuc, Mary Lesko, Marylou Ruch, and Patty Simpson (staff).

In the coming months, our work as a community will be to learn more about these issues and discern one that is resonant with us, so that we can focus our efforts for positive change.

For more information:

Paulist Center (for investment policy and general information): www.paulist.org/boston
Center for Reflection, Education, and Action (for information on corporate responsibility, sustainability, and living wages): www.crea-inc.org
Boston Common Asset Management: www.bostoncommonasset.com
Social Investment Forum (for general information on the SRI field): www.socialinvest.org