

## Christ the Servant Parish: The Birthplace of Self

Roberto S. Goizueta, author and theologian, defines the parish community as “the birthplace of self”, stating that it is in this “true family” that we discover our individuality. And so when we speak of Christ the Servant Parish we are not



talking about an abstract concept, but rather a reality in which the challenges and difficulties of living our Christian lives becomes a mutually common experience ; working to discover our true selves. Relationship isn't something that happens to us or

something that we own, but rather something that we **“do.”**

That which we **“do”** as a parish community is the work of God. The parish community as “the birthplace of the self” and the “true family” provides the environment and forms the relationships for the mutual sharing of beliefs, our morals, and our ethical values. The **“doing”** of our people through self-giving enables us to live as the Acts of the Apostles (2:42-47) testifies; the followers of Jesus lived with a new level of consciousness in which everything was “held in common.” If you remember, St. Paul was reminded of that oneness of mind and spirit in the second reading from this past week – the same attitude of mind as Jesus is allowing God to work in us.

The fashioning of attitudes that will empower a more authentic Christian way of living is tough. Learning how to live in solidarity with God and our neighbor presents new challenges and opportunities for Christ the Servant Parish. It recognizes that our educational mission is always more than mere “religious instruction” or the mere passing on of information about religion. Sharing in the mission allows the Spirit of God to create those bonds of relationship which support this new awareness for living out a Catholic Christian way of life, and at the same time confronting those obstacles that diminish the fashioning of true community. LGaetano