

## April 2022 Pastoral Council Meeting Summary

**Financial Report:** The Finance Council did not meet last month, but there will be a report at the next Pastoral Council meeting.

**Liturgy and Worship Commission:** It went over the Holy Week schedule and was seeking 12 volunteers, six each from the Anglo and Hispanic community leaders to have their feet washed during the Holy Thursday Mass.

**Finance and Administration Commission:** Paul Thessing, affectionately known as “Dr. Mow,” announced his retirement as groundskeeper. It was a physically taxing job which he faithfully and lovingly tended to for many years. A volunteer will handle the mowing and weeding work, but other volunteers are being sought to manage the flower beds.

**Education and Formation Commission:** St. Joseph School Principal Matt Tucker reported that the new high school building construction remains “on time and on budget.” Beginning in the middle of June, the process of dismantling the present high school building will begin. It will start with a three-week asbestos abatement process. Present numbers for re-enrollment K-12 for the 2022-23 school year stands at 399. The Pre-School is full but there is a waiting list. Letters have gone out about a tuition increase, but a new partial scholarship opportunity is becoming available. A non-profit organization is funding it which will target low-income families wishing to access private schools. Both new and current students may apply, and the funding entity decides who gets accepted. These scholarships will take some of the pressure off our school’s existing tuition assistance program.

**Parish Life Commission:** It held three Lenten Dinners. The first two fed about 275 persons each. The head count for the third was about 350. All the meals were well received and raised over \$8,000 for their designated charities.

**Social Justice and Charitable Outreach Commission:** The Mission Committee’s Belize Immersion Trip from May 1-7 had 10 volunteers registered and partially paid prior to submitting its report. One of the group’s projects there will be to build a home with aluminum shutters and a porch. The McAllen, Texas Respite Center Mission from May 18-22 had its budget and subsidy approved. Advertising for volunteers was to have begun in the bulletin and social media. A Parish Poverty Simulation event is set for May 24 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Twenty-five volunteers were being recruited to run stations. The Men of Faith Appalachia Mission Trip is set for May 31-June 4, 2022. Advertising regarding registration was to have gone out.

**Hispanic Commission:** The Commission did a wonderful job with the Lenten Dinner it was involved with. Meetings were being held to select new coordinators for Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors. The Missionary Carmelites of St. Teresa leave for Houston, TX on June 11 to plan for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their arrival in the U.S.

**Old Business:** There was some discussion of the church’s audio-visual system. The cost of the bulbs and screens is exorbitant. A shift to big screen monitors may eventually happen since their prices have come down, but a wait-and-see approach will be taken until it’s determined how much longer the present equipment can last.

**Pastor’s Report:** Father Tony said the marathon Confessions Day held during Lent received positive feedback. There’d been similar reactions to the one during Advent, hence these will continue. There were seven catechumens at the Easter Vigil, one baby and a combination of six adults and children. Father Tony agreed to another three-year term on the Diocesan School Board. Our priests will be assisting the Carmel of St. Teresa of Jesus Sisters in Little Rock with their Novena July 8-16.