

December 2020 Pastoral Council Meeting Summary

Financial Report: The collections for the last couple of months have been relatively healthy considering what's going on in the world. A recent out of the ordinary expense for \$3,400 was for preservation of the church's stained-glass windows. They're encased in wood and suffer wear and tear. Patching them up every couple of years is the best cost-effective option for their care. The Finance Council has approved putting a new roof on the priests' residence. It's 16 years old and hasn't held up as long as hoped. The bid was for \$14,000. The church is also looking at future expenses regarding its energy management system. Its computer-operated and can save on energy costs, but the computers themselves have a life span. The system is going to need replacing, but it may be a few months. Other buildings have separate systems. Ideally, the church wants to find one company to oversee them all.

Social Justice and Charitable Outreach Commission: The Mission Committee reported that the Diocese's "One Church" Campaign for 2020 resulted in raising nearly \$8,200 on-line for Hamburg's Holy Spirit Church. The 2021 campaign is already underway to support St. Bartholomew Church in Little Rock with its plans for a Parish Life Center. A draft of the Committee's "Mission Outreach Report to the Parish" has been approved. This information is being distributed through the parish's communication channels. The Conway Ministry Center, through which much charitable outreach goes, has had to relocate. It hopes to reopen in the next several weeks. In the meantime, referrals are being made to other such entities as CAPCA and the city's warming center. About 500 "blessing bags" are again being made available to homeless and needy people.

Youth Faith Formation: Interim Head of School Matt Tucker said the new high school capital campaign is moving forward. The school is again consulting with the Guidance and Giving organization which advised the parish on the financing of the Spiritan Center. Funding is currently about \$1.5 million short of what it needs to be before ground can be broken. School nurse Kim Nutt was praised for her work with the State Health Department in dealing with COVID-19 contact tracing issues. There have been challenges with some of the school's sports teams as well as dealing with onsite vs online learning, but the school has not had to close any campus, grade level, or class due to excessive COVID-19 quarantines. Everyone is working well together.

Old Business: Mass attendance is holding steady for most services in the 200-220 range. The church has re-applied sanitize and defense spray for the third time. This should last for another three months. With the proper wearing of masks, appropriate social distancing, and sanitizing there should be very limited risk at Mass for contracting the virus. Father Tony said no one should come to Mass if they aren't willing to follow these protocols.

New Business: There be one less Christmas Mass offered this year. There will not be a 4:00 and 4:15 PM Mass on Christmas Eve as before. There will just be the 4:00 PM and a simulcast for overflow. There will be a 6:00 PM Spanish Mass as well as an 8:00 and 10 PM Mass that night and a 9:00 AM on Christmas morning. If anyone cannot be seated at the earlier Masses, they are either dispensed or they can come back later and try again. The three-year terms of some members of the Pastoral Council are about to expire. They can opt out or agree to stay on for another three-year term. Replacements for any open seats would have to be recommended and put to a parish vote sometime after the first of the year.

Pastor's Report: Father expressed his gratitude to his brother priests for filling in for him during his vacation. He was also pleased with how well parishioners have been doing with following the COVID-19 protocols. He announced that Father Chandra is being transferred to a Diocese in Wisconsin and expressed his appreciation to him for the work he has done during his stay here.