

## January 2019 Pastoral Council Meeting Summary

**Financial Report:** Utility bills have been slightly higher in the Spiritan Center than expected. They're being monitored, but it's actually a good sign because it is indicative of how frequently the facility is being used by parishioners. It's generated increased participation in various ministries which is the ultimate goal. Indicators are St. Joseph will have a remaining debt of \$1.3 million on the Spiritan Center that includes finance charges and interest on the Diocesan loan taken out to cover its remaining construction cost. This is lower than expected thanks to the fact that the project came in under budget and the in-kind services that were provided by various parishioners.

**Liturgy and Worship Commission:** There was a lot of positive feedback on how the Christmas Masses were presented in both the church and the Spiritan Center. Nearly 700 persons attended the 4:15 p.m. Mass in the Spiritan Center on Christmas Eve.

**Education and Faith Formation Commission:** The Youth Ministry has a variety of programs going. It's also promoting International speaker, author and TV host Chris Stefanik who'll be speaking to parishioners on February 13<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:30 pm.

**Social Justice and Charitable Outreach Commission:** Advertising has begun for the Empty Bowls meal to benefit Bethlehem House in the Spiritan Center on February 6. Missions Committee member Ron Gatto will be preparing the meal. The Family Mission Trip to the St. Joseph Center in NLR will be held March 20-24. The Hand-in-Hand Belize "Building for Change" trip is in the planning stages. It's an international event is an alternative/replacement for the former Honduras Mission. Theresa Gerard is trying to reserve such a trip for St. Joseph in October. Father Tony supports a second collection being scheduled to support the "One Church" initiative benefiting St. Luke Parish in Warren, AR. Joe Cordaro will coordinate the best weekend for such a collection with Father Tony.

**Parish Life Commission:** There are now eight families represented on this Commission which has begun planning the Lenten Dinners. They will be served on March 13 and 27 and April 3 and 10. There are still plans to honor Deacon Jerry Joe Harrison's retirement but it will have to be worked out with his schedule. That could be in the late Spring or early Summer.

**Hispanic Commission:** The Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration was successful as were the Christmas posadas. The Commission is looking for help facilitating communications between our Hispanic community and other entities within the Diocese.

**Old Business:** The House of Hope and Special Events Center was set to host the first bilingual Mass for Greenbrier residents on January 12. It's a temporary facility that can seat from 70-100 persons. St. Joseph will pay \$100 a week to rent it. The Masses will be held each Saturday at 7:00 p.m. Bishop Taylor asked for three suggestions for naming the parish preferably one that's not being used elsewhere in the state. He will make the final selection. Elections for two positions on the Pastoral Council were scheduled in January. Six candidates would be vying for seats being vacated by Lori Ross and John Abbott after several years of valuable service.

**Pastor's Report:** Deacon David French from Lake Village has recently moved to Conway. He's held that position for about six years and will soon be serving our parish in that capacity.