

June 2022 Summary of Pastoral Council Meeting

Financial Report: There were no issues involving the most recent reports on collections and expenses. After the Finance Council gave its initial approval to the parish's proposed budget for fiscal year 2022-23, the Pastoral Council concurred.

Finance and Administration: Kaitlyn Hartman is now the Director of Youth Faith Formation and Deacon David French become the Adult Sacramental Coordinator. The previous work of Carina Martinez and Andrea Ziminski was greatly appreciated.

Social Justice and Charitable Outreach Commission: Some of the notations in the Missions Committee report included the Empty Bowls benefit meal for Bethlehem House which was served on 4-20-22. Eighty-one people took part and \$1,315 was raised. The Family Mission Weekend at the St. Joseph Center in North Little Rock will be held Sept 9-11. The Belize Immersion Trip held from May 1-7 involved nine volunteers who had a wonderful experience there. Theresa Gerard will try to book the next trip for quarter one of 2023. The Men of Faith Appalachian trip scheduled for May 31-June 4 had ten volunteers registered for it. The Delta Disciples Mission at St. Mary's in McGehee will take place September 29-October 2. An event to help St. Andrew's Church in Danville through the One Church program was set for June 21. It was titled "An Evening with Father Jeff."

Parish Life Commission: The Lenten Dinners were deemed successful and the turnout was great. Letters from the Arkansas Alzheimer's Board were particularly appreciative of what the funds do for its organization. There will be three meals offered again next year. The Missions Committee had asked Parish Life if it could take over the Empty Bowls event. The Commission felt that wasn't feasible. However, the Commission is happy to consider making Bethlehem House one of the beneficiaries of the Lenten Dinners. A celebration of the ordination of Deacons Calvin Percy and Ramon Argueta will be held on July 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Stewardship Commission: The Commission's focus during Stewardship Month in October will be on the powerful work of the Missions Committee, a ministry that "truly embodies what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus." There are plans to create a video in which team members and clients share their thoughts. There will also be a packet mailed with a letter from Father Tony along with ministry information, volunteer opportunities, electronic giving forms, and a summary of the financial state of the parish.

Education and Formation Commission: Principal Matt Tucker said it's been an amazing year for the school. The new high school is nearing completion, the old one will be stripped of asbestos and torn down by the end of June. Enrollment is coming back up. The Pre-school is basically filled for the next school year and only six more students needed to be added to Kindergarten to reach their allotment. All the teaching vacancies have been filled.

Hispanic Commission: It's preparing for a Family Retreat September 23-25 in the Spiritan Center. The guest speaker will be Juan Antonio Madrigal from Michoacan, Mexico where he leads Biblical ministry. Our Carmelite Sisters of St. Teresa are going on their annual retreat to Houston, Texas and will return by the end of July. Before they left they were at a retreat for Hispanic youth known as Fuerza Transformadora. The Sisters heard testimonies from these youth, some of which dealt with serious issues they're grappling with such as drugs, depression and suicide. The Sisters are committed to reaching out to these young people to offer what counseling they can.

Pastor's Report: Father Tony spoke about some of the various challenges the parish has faced and how the Holy Spirit has intervened to overcome them. He thinks we are slowly getting back to normal after all the disruption the pandemic created. High school graduation and First Communion excited him, as did the Papal appointment of Father Erik Pohlmeier as Bishop of the Diocese of St. Augustine, Florida. That, along with the earlier appointment in 2019 of Monsignor Francis Malone to be Bishop of the Diocese of Shreveport, Louisiana, tell Father Tony that the faith life in our area is strong. The appointment of Bishop Pohlmeier also created a chain reaction which led to Associate Pastor Father Brian Cundall being named Administrator of Christ the King Church in Ft. Smith.