

## October 2019 Pastoral Council Summary

**Financial Report:** Recent accountings looked good. Only issue was expense involved with recent water leak that took some time to pinpoint. It was found and resolved. The broken valve was covered under warranty. The abnormally higher water bills will be partially credited back. Subsequent bills should normalize.

**Education and Formation Commission:** St Joseph School received the Arkansas Recycling Coalition's "School Recycler of the Year Award" on October 1<sup>st</sup> at a meeting in Eureka Springs. The Youth Ministry and Faith Formation Classes cited growing numbers which they attributed to more appealing programs.

**Stewardship Commission:** Plans were in place through homilies, mailings, and video presentations to encourage the giving of time, talent, and treasure in support of the many vital programs our parish offers.

**Social Justice and Charitable Outreach Commission:** The Missions Committee has several projects and events in the works. CAPCA (Community Action Program for Central Arkansas) will be holding holiday food drives December 12-13. Volunteer sign-ups will be forwarded when they are available from CAPCA. The St. Peter's Episcopal Guatemala Mission is February 15-23. Theresa Gerard is now a member of the Guatemala Mission Board. A fundraiser, "Beers and Blues" is set for 11/9 at St. Peter's. Our parishioners are encouraged to attend.

**Parish Life Commission:** The focus of its most recent meeting was a Razorback watch party on November 23 for the game with LSU. Chili and hot dogs would be served, the latter provided by Centennial Bank. An online group signup would be created to get some idea of count. There would also be a kids play area and a movie for them.

**Hispanic Commission:** It was reported that September's El Grito/Kermes celebration held in downtown Conway brought in close to \$5,000 all of which was deposited in the "Growing Our Faith" capital campaign fund.

**Old Business:** The St. Oscar Romero Mission Church in Greenbrier was set to move to its new location on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 57 South Broadview.

**New Business:** The parish will soon launch its own mobile app. The use of smartphones is the most common way of communicating these days, and the establishment of the app will make it easier to get the word out about various events/activities. The app will be especially welcome in light of recent problems the church has had in disseminating bulk emails. It's hoped that problem can be rectified because it remains a valuable tool. A few suppliers were looked at regarding the app, and it's been decided to go with the least expensive one initially which amounts to \$24 per month. Preventive maintenance is being done regarding the church air conditioners. The tonnage we have may not be enough to withstand a breakdown of one of the larger units. Therefore, a smaller 15-ton unit near the choir area, which hasn't worked in some time, will be replaced. The funds for that will most likely come out of Maintenance Trust. Stop signs have been installed around the Spiritan Center and the high school. Traffic can be problematic in this area during children's drop off and pick up times, so this was done as a safety measure.

**Pastor's Report:** Father Tony talked about the establishment of a ministry to help people affected by a variety of abuses. It will be a peer support group something akin to Alcoholics Anonymous meetings where abuse sufferers can tell their stories and be believed. The ministry will be aligned with the Maria Goretti Network which offers people a safe environment to come and talk about their experiences and about the need for forgiveness. This network was co-founded in Texas in 2004 by Miguel Prats, a sexual abuse survivor, and Father Gavin Vaverek from the Diocese of Tyler, Texas. Bishop Anthony Taylor decided to start a chapter of the network in Arkansas after learning more about it, and Father Tony offered our parish as host to the first chapter in the state.