

Summary of August 2022 Pastoral Council Meeting

Financial Report: The May, June and year-end collection numbers remained strong. It's been a healthy year despite COVID, capital campaigns and a school tuition increase. The total contributions for the fiscal year were \$2,170,000 which is a record number at least \$100,000 higher than previously accumulated. "It's a real blessing the way the parish has stepped up," one member of the Council stated. The debt on the Diocesan Loan for the Spiritan Center construction has gone down considerably. Extra payments were made through the parish's Depreciation Reserve Fund, and the balance is now under \$350,000. If there are no other extra payments made, that loan should be paid off in a year-and-a-half but it could be sooner.

Finance and Administration Committee: With Andrea Ziminsky's move, there have been some new hires and shifting of responsibilities. Deacon David French is now the Adult Sacramental/RCIA Coordinator. Collin Gallimore is the new Bulletin Editor and Audio-Visual Coordinator. Susana Acosta is the Sacrament Coordinator and Kaitlyn Harmon is the Director of Youth Faith Formation.

Education and Formation Commission: St. Joseph School Principal Matthew Tucker noted it has seven new staff members and enrollment has gone up. He was quite pleased with the performances of fellow administrators Hannah Belew and Courtney Pope at the Principal's Retreat held at Subiaco Abbey this summer. Our cheerleaders, led by Amy and Abigail Covington, attended a camp at Bryant over the summer and came home with a number of prestigious awards. Mr. Tucker praised the girls and said they're going to perform as a competitive Arkansas Activities Association sport this year for the first time.

Stewardship Commission: The Commission discussed plans for this year's Stewardship Campaign which will take place in October. The members want to shine a spotlight on the powerful work being done by our Missions Committee. They say it "truly embodies what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus." A video will be shown at Masses which may include interviews with mission team members and their clients. A packet will also be mailed out with a letter from Father Tony, ministry information, volunteer opportunities, electronic giving forms, and a summary of the financial state of the parish.

Parish Life Commission: The Commission hosted a farewell reception for Father Brian Cundall on June 26th. About 150 people attended. The Parish Life team also hosted the Deacons' Ordination reception honoring Deacons Calvin Percy and Ramon Argueta on June 13. St. Joseph's own Elijah Bailey was also welcomed as a new seminarian. About 200 people attended.

Hispanic Commission: Sister Brigida said the Commission has been planning for its Family Retreat September 24-25 at the Spiritan Center. She also noted there'd been a good meeting of Hispanic leaders August 20 at the Diocese which was led by Sister Mickey, the Director of the Diocesan Hispanic Ministry Office.

Pastor's Report: Father Tony thanked Christy Trantina and her team for arranging the visit of Father Jim Sichko from Lexington, Kentucky. He presented a very-well received and attended series of talks the week of July 10-13. Father Tony also was appreciative of Father Asmith's visit from Haiti June 25-26. He enlightened parishioners about that country's frequent struggles. Father Erik Pohlmeier's elevation to Bishop of the Diocese St. Augustine, Florida is a source of pride for Father Tony and all Arkansas Catholics. The 75th Anniversary of the Carmelite Sisters of St. Teresa coming to the U.S. was acknowledged, and Father Tony spoke of his appreciation for all the concern expressed about the workloads he and Father Desam now have. They're dealing with the situation well, but it gives us even more impetus to pray for vocations.