

February 2019 Pastoral Council Meeting Summary

Financial Report: November and December 2018 were reported as “good healthy months” for collections and budgetary matters.

Social Justice and Charitable Outreach Commission: The Mission Committee has changed the budget Category heading from “Honduras Mission” to “Belize Mission.” This “Building for Change” trip to Belize will be from September 29-October 5, 2019. Advertising for volunteers will take place this summer. Even though the Honduras Mission was suspended for 2019, there may be an effort to ship goods to the area. The parish donates 1% of its weekly collections (paid monthly) to local charitable organizations. They’re split equally between Bethlehem House, Haven House, the Women’s Shelter, and Life Choices, Inc. The Family Mission Trip to the St. Joseph Center in NLR will be March 20- 23. The Steering Committee was still being formed, but there will be space for 60 persons on the trip. Pope Francis has declared October as “Extraordinary Missionary Month.” Various activities may be planned to promote the work of the Missions Committee and volunteer opportunities for more parishioners. The Depressed Parish Support efforts are looking at the Helena/West Helena area as a possible opportunity. The Community Assistance Program is doing a great job and continues to run smoothly.

Parish Life Commission: The dates, menus, and charity slots have been filled for the Lenten Dinners. The March 13 dinner menu will include pork tenderloin and Alzheimer’s Arkansas/Joe Bear Apparel will be the beneficiary. March 27 will feature fajitas and rice and beans. Haven House will be the charitable recipient. April 3 will have gumbo served up, and The Call foster children’s charity will be helped that night. Finally, on April 10, a breakfast menu of pancakes, sausage, and eggs will be provided. Life Choices, Inc. will be on the receiving end of that effort. A protocol for handling any weather cancellations has been discussed. Deacon Jerry Joe Harrison’s retirement celebration has been moved to sometime this summer.

Stewardship Commission: It’s looking for new members and is working on directives for parish leaders from Father Tony and Father Erik Pohlmeier.

Hispanic Commission: A representative from SpringBoard USA spoke at the Commission’s January 30 meeting. Its mission is to offer youth who have the potential and motivation to succeed with an opportunity to thrive in a holistic boarding school environment. For disadvantaged youth who experience after-school dysfunction, the kind of structured, caring environment boarding schools offer can be a tremendous benefit to them. Although the Hispanic participation at December’s Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration “was the highest ever” there was no participation on the part of the Anglo community. Despite this, stories about the apparitions of Our Lady will continue to be read in English by Ms. Christen Reyes’ Spanish students to further encourage Anglo participation.

Old Business: The Parish Finance Council thinks the Capital Campaign went very well. A lot of in-kind services from parishioners were of great financial help. In the end, the parish will only have about \$1.3 million dollars to pay off through Diocesan loans. The Saturday Masses in Greenbrier have been going well. The attendance has been ranging from 45-80 persons and the collections have brought in more than enough to pay the weekly rent. Several names have been submitted as to what to call this mission church and votes were soon be taken to decide the top three. Bishop Taylor will make the final selection and he’ll subsequently be invited to say Mass there to officially dedicate it as such.

New Business: There was some discussion about the length or number of announcements made at Mass. It was ultimately agreed they would continue but brevity would be strived for.