

## March 2019 Summary of Pastoral Council Meeting

**Financial Report:** A normal month. Nothing stood out.

**Liturgy and Worship:** Father Tony reported on the Commission's meeting. It focused on Easter plans and the need to recruit more volunteers for all Masses. Plans were put in place to include contact information in the church bulletin for all the various ministry coordinators. The latter are in charge of the scheduling and training of volunteers.

**Education and Formation:** A Parish-wide three-session study on the Eucharist entitled "Presence" began March 13. Meetings with the 38 Adult Faith leaders are being held to discuss implementing a Parish-wide "Bible Timeline" study from September of this year through April of 2020. All groups would be asked to consider letting go of their current study practices for one year to participate in an effort that would have many growth benefits for our wider parish community. This would be optional. Adult Faith leaders are now talking with their groups to decide what they want to do. There are plans in the works for two days of summer leadership training for Adult Faith volunteers. Father Erik Pohlmeier would likely be involved. The Youth Ministry Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser took in \$1200. Another is planned for April 28<sup>th</sup>. The Youth Ministry also held a bake sale that raised \$1600. These monies are primarily aimed at underwriting the annual Steubenville retreat. School principal Diane Wolfe reported things are going well as it heads into the final year-ending stretch. Talks with committee members and the construction of a new high school continue in their infancy stage.

**Parish Life:** The four Lenten Dinners are set with two in March and two in April. Those charities benefitting include Alzheimer's Arkansas/Joe Bear Apparel, Haven House, The Call (foster children), and Life Choices, Inc.

**Hispanic Commission:** Hispanic parishioners are leading Stations of the Cross on Fridays and Hispanic Youth are reenacting the Passion on Good Friday. The special altar honoring the feast day of St. Joseph on March 19 is another contribution of the Hispanic community. They're also preparing the meal for the Lenten Dinner on March 27. The Commission will hold a picnic and cookout on May 20.

**Old Business:** The Capital Campaign continues to move forward. Money continues to come in, pledges are being fulfilled, and payments are being made on the \$1.3 million debt remaining. Names were still being considered for the Greenbrier mission but all indications were pointing to the choice of St. Oscar Romero, the martyred Bishop of El Salvador who died in 1980. Plans for having Bishop Taylor saying Mass there in celebration of the naming were underway. (That came to pass on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m.)

**Pastor's Report:** Father Tony reflected on the Confirmation Mass with Bishop Taylor which is always "a good celebration." Father Tony also recalled his recent vacation to Mexico and his visit there at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Carmelite Sisters Retreat Center. He would like other parishioners to experience what he does there and has hopes of arranging such a pilgrimage next year. Father's initial thoughts would be to be go there for a long weekend, say over the President's Day observation. The Retreat Center can fit about 100 persons. This would require flying down there and back with local busses being used for transportation. Meals and accommodations would be minimally-priced. If this works out, Father says he'd love to see it become "a regular deal." He's leading a retreat to France the first week in April and will gain experience from that. His only cautionary regarding a Mexico trip would be adapting to the difference in altitude. That part of Mexico has an elevation of about 7,000 feet whereas Conway is only 300.