

Summary of September 2019 Pastoral Council Meeting

Financial Report: June data and the end of Fiscal Year accounting was presented and approved. In summation, collections have been strong and the church is in a good financial position. The current fiscal year is off to a good start, but a close eye was being kept on utility costs. Water bills were increasing significantly which were believed to be connected to a water leak of unknown origins. (It was subsequently found and remedied.)

Liturgy and Worship Commission: Father Tony said a meeting had been held. The main thing that came out of it was that the need for a communion “rover” to go around the church is no longer needed except for the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. This makes it easier for the Eucharistic ministers at the other Masses.

Education and Formation Commission: St. Joseph School Principal Diane Wolfe said school is going well, enrollment is holding, and several new employees are in place. She encouraged everyone to “friend” the school’s Facebook page which is putting out a lot of information related to school activities. It was noted that about 200 public school students are currently enrolled in our Faith Formation classes. Around 175 adults are also taking part in the new Bible Timeline course Christy Trantina started.

Social Justice and Charitable Outreach Commission: Fred Schulze has been doing a wonderful job of photographically documenting much of the Mission Committee’s work. Many of these photos have been published in the *Catholic Cabin* and he’s also created an on-line repository for them.

Parish Life Commission: There’s been some discussion about arranging an Arkansas Razorback football game watch party. It could involve the contest with LSU. There are some technical logistics that have to be looked at before this can be settled. An earlier family activity involving tickets to an Arkansas Travelers baseball game was a modest success. Future efforts in this area would be aimed at streamlining ticket availability to cut down on waste.

Stewardship Commission: October is Stewardship Month. Father Erik Pohlmeier, with the Diocesan Faith Formation Office, had been offering training to help the faithful understand their spiritual gifts more fully. The “Called and Gifted” program also helps Catholics discover their spiritual gifts and mission in life. The Stewardship Commission has decided to partner with the latter and let it spearhead efforts to awaken more parishioners to these gifts and help them discover a better sense of stewardship. It will be sending a team here and the Commission will assist in promoting their work. October homilies will be devoted this topic as well, along with video testimonials. Letters are also going out to parishioners on the financial state of the parish.

Hispanic Commission: Our Carmelite Sisters returned from their summer retreat. The Hispanic “Kermes” festival, which was set for September 7, was combining with another event to celebrate Mexico’s independence known as “El Grito.” Our capital campaign is expected to benefit from the celebration.

Old Business: Renovation work on the former ice cream parlor in Greenbrier, which is to become the new home for the St. Oscar Romero Mission, is near completion. There are still some more “cosmetics” to be taken care of along with painting and other finishing touches. Father Tony referenced the previous visit by representatives from Springboard, USA and its mission to place disadvantaged but deserving boys into boarding school environments. He spoke of one local 13 year- old who could benefit from such a move, but he needs a better home environment first. Father also spoke about the CASA collections being “down a bit” statewide. St. Joseph has been doing well, but we’re looking at a possibly higher goal to help with the situation.

Pastor’s Report: Father Tony said it’s been a great month. He’s happy to see all the physical and spiritual growth in the parish and he’s looking forward to see how much more we can progress.