

September 2021 Pastoral Council Meeting Summary

Financial Report: The monthly collections having been going well. There have been no real changes from previous months. A question was asked about the status of the St. Oscar Romero Community in Greenbrier. It was reported that the community was going to start reimbursing the parish for the use of our priests. We're waiting to hear from the Diocese as to whether the community will set up its own account or continue to operate under this church. There was another question about how much money is still owed on the construction of the Spiritan Center? The response was the total is \$1,060,000.

Education and Formation Commission: School Principal Matt Tucker reported there are currently 490 students enrolled in Pre-K through the 12th grade. There are 428 in Kindergarten through 12 which is 12 below what was budgeted for. The St. Joseph School Bazaar "was a success" from all accounts, although there were no official numbers yet as to profitability. The School Endowment and Charitable Trust held its 45th Anniversary Dinner which was highlighted by the appearance of retired Archbishop of Seattle J. Peter Sartain. He previously served as Bishop for the Diocese of Little Rock. Mr. Tucker talked about the challenges that COVID brings to the school, but he made it clear we want our students learning here on campus. He also wants to see them grow in their faith. Efforts to engage students in performing at high school Masses is making great strides. Pre-K-4 through 12th grade students all wear masks in class. Pre-K-3 students do not. The construction of the new high school is moving along on time and on budget. The grinding of concrete was the latest step and the placement of steel beams was expected before the month is out.

Hispanic Commission: The Diocesan Hispanic Ministry is celebrating its 25th Anniversary on September 11th. A group consecrating to St. Joseph began weekly sessions lasting six weeks and the consecration culminated on September 30. Those participating acknowledge St. Joseph as their spiritual father and want to be like him.

Social Justice and Charitable Outreach Commission: The Missions Committee will produce an annual report to the parish as a bulletin stuffer on the weekend of October 24-25 which is World Mission Sunday. Female members of the Committee were asked to meet and brainstorm over ways to expand Mission Outreach programs with more "female friendly" opportunities. Father Tony has approved conducting another weekend promoting more Mission Outreach volunteer registrations before and after all Masses. The one coming up will also be on that World Mission Sunday in October. Joe Cordaro is planning for the distribution of Blessing Bags for the homeless during November and December. The contents and quantity of the bags are being evaluated. They'll be assembled by the Youth Ministry on November 4. The Men of Faith Appalachia Mission Trip took place in June. Three challenging projects for the needy were conducted. Next year's trip is set for May 31-June 4, 2022. After consulting with Father Tony, it's been decided that the next International Mission Trip will be to Haiti. The plans are to partner with the ongoing Haiti Mission through the parish in Hot Springs. A "Parish Day of Giving," originally planned for September and October, is being moved to February and March of '22 due to the pandemic and to allow for more time to plan and successfully execute the event.

New Business: A rotating photographic display documenting Eucharistic Miracles will be in church over the next several weeks. They're described in both English and Spanish. We have a new Deacon named Doug Adams. He's originally from this area, but he moved away for several years. He's back now, but needs to get re-acclimated and will be introduced to the parish when the time is right. Concern was expressed about the lack of reports coming from some ministries. COVID has impacted on the ability to meet in some cases, but it was felt meetings can take place without being face-to-face.