

Summary of March 2018 Pastoral Council Meeting

Financial Report: The January financials showed Capital Campaign expenses coming through and monthly church collections still tracking a little lower than expected. The situation is being closely monitored. Total collections for January were \$158,594.85 which was below budget.

Finance and Administration Commission: It's very close to having facilities use agreements and alcohol policies updated for the new building. The final versions were sent to DOLR for review and will be forwarded on approval to the parties that have already reserved space for their signature on revised contracts. The primary changes include a new damage and security deposit of \$1000, which is refundable, and a cleaning fee of \$450.

Social Justice and Community Outreach Commission: The Missions Committee reported that all 2018 mission trips related to the Honduran mission have been cancelled due to political unrest in that country. The \$3,000 in missionary subsidies will be refunded to our church budget. The items collected for that mission at the February 28 Lenten Dinner will be stored for future delivery in the Honduras warehouse. The Depressed Parish Support effort at St. Andrews in Danville included a flooring installation work day on March 10. A possible exchange program with a parish in Arlington, Texas could emerge in the summer of 2019 as a Family Mission Trip. Former Youth Minister Dawn Ward, who's now attached to that Arlington parish, is working with us. Word should be going out soon about the Men of Faith Appalachia Mission Trip scheduled for June 5-9.

Parish Life Commission: It was focused on the Lenten Dinners which were winding down. The turnouts had been good despite some bad weather during a couple of them.

Stewardship Commission: The traditional church collection envelopes are being customized to display scenes from parish events and activities. The Commission met with representatives from Our Sunday Visitor regarding possible continuation of the stewardship program it spearheaded during the past fiscal year. If it had been renewed, OSV would have simply repeated its plan. Despite its success, the cost of implementation coupled with an anticipated lower return, the Commission declined. It will instead focus on promoting time and talent without the treasure component during the next Stewardship Month in the Fall. About 400-500 families are currently engaged in parish activities, but efforts to connect with the other two-thirds of our church membership will be intensified.

Old Business: The new building continues to come along. It was about three weeks away from having the upstairs section completed. The downstairs was expected to be done by mid to late April. The outside work is most susceptible to delays if weather comes into play. St. Joseph High School Principal Diane Wolf asked if the current flagpole will remain intact. It will, but it can be moved if requested. She added she would like to see two more poles so that the Papal and Arkansas flags can fly separately. Ms. Wolfe also reported that efforts to provide cooling improvements to the Family Activities Center are awaiting final approval from the Diocese.

New Business: It's been five years since the last pictorial directory was printed. A new one will be undertaken this Fall. It will include such improvements as a mobile on-line version and it will also allow for periodic updates.

Pastor's Report: It came to Father Tony's attention that a few concerns had been expressed regarding our Girl Scout troop cookie sales and the national organization's political agenda. Similar concerns have come to light regarding the Boy Scouts. It was agreed that only a small percentage of what these scouts collect through sales make their way back to those national organizations. The good that our local troop leaders are doing for these boys and girls probably outweigh the minimal gains the GSA or BSA may receive from such sales. Father also received a request from the St. Scholastica Convent in Ft Smith regarding the promotion of its capital campaign. It was agreed it would be limited to a mention in our church bulletin.