

Summary of October 2018 Pastoral Council Meeting

Financial Report: September was a healthy month. The first quarter of the year brought in about \$500,000 in collections. The first and fourth quarters are often the weakest, but if things continue at this pace the income will exceed our projections.

Liturgy Commission: The needs of various ministries were discussed. Efforts to get their schedules organized were made but it's still a "work in progress." Coordinators are still needed for altar servers, the audio visual booth, and the sacristans for some of the Masses. The hope is to not have to search for volunteers at the last minute to help with large events or celebrations.

Social Justice and Charitable Outreach: The old way of doing things regarding community assistance was put on hold in recent times due to deceitful actions on the part of some applicants. Our volunteers had become disillusioned in this regard. These requests were turned over to the Conway Ministry Center to evaluate instead. Our Commission wants to make a difference in this area so is looking at bringing Community Assistance under the Missions Committee's umbrella. Upcoming events related to the Missions Committee include a CAPCA Holiday Drive December 13, Project Homeless Connect January 22nd, and an Empty Bowls event for Bethlehem House on February 6.

Parish Life Commission: The Commission's purpose was discussed, which is to create opportunities for fellowship and socializing to help build a sense of community. A list of items for future consideration was developed which included charity partners and menus for Lenten Dinners, prospective team members, volunteers for events, welcome packets, etc. A Calendar of Events for consideration was also drawn up.

Stewardship Commission: October is Stewardship Month and homilies at all Masses will focus on the importance of devoting time and talent to our church. To help the faithful understand their gifts more fully and how to use them to give glory to God, the Diocesan Faith Formation Office, under the direction of Father Erik Pohlmeier, is offering training. Some of our church staff is receiving it.

Hispanic Commission: Preparation for the Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration in December is in progress. Our Camelite Sisters of St. Teresa have begun visits to lower income Hispanic families in Conway which include counseling when needed. The Kermes celebration in September benefited St. Joseph's "Growing Our Faith" Capital Campaign with a \$9,000 profit. The love and support of the Hispanic community was felt by this effort. Many families donated food items and took time off of work to show their support for the Capital Campaign.

Old Business: The construction of the new parking lot has been going well and weather permitting, should be done in advance of the Christmas deadline. The leaks in the Spiritan Center are straightened out and soundproofing in the 202 Conference Room is done. The acoustics in the downstairs cafeteria/reception areas will hopefully be improved before Christmas. The church's audio visual system has been an area of concern for some time. Lots of alternatives have been studied. Given the cost factors involved in replacing the system it's been decided we'll ride it out with what we presently have, including the cost of bulb replacements, for another couple of years. It's believed by then the prices will have dropped to the point where they'll be more within our reach.

Pastor's Report: Father Tony said September was a great month for vocations. Brother Travis Gunther, a St. Joseph School graduate, made his perpetual profession as a Salesian. Our Father Jeff Hebert traveled to Rome where 40 men were ordained to the transitional diaconate. This included Diocese of Little Rock seminarian Martin Amaro. St. Joseph High School teacher Karen Davis has taken over the role of Coordinator for Eucharistic Minister training. Father Tony suggested Morgan (Gatto) Evans join the Pastoral Council so it can be kept up-to-date on Youth Activities along with other Education and Formation Commission news.