

## Summary of September 2020 Pastoral Council Meeting

**Financial Report:** The ending fiscal year report was healthy overall. The projected numbers were down but good considering the impact of COVID-19. Recent collections have been lower as well yet costs have stayed manageable. Utility charges fell in tandem with less frequent use of facilities. Ministries' expenses also declined due to COVID restrictions limiting their activities.

**Education and Formation Commission:** Interim Head of School Matt Tucker pleased with increase in diversity enrollment at St. Joseph from 11% last year to 15%. Also, last year school enrollment was 92% Catholic. Now it's 87% which means the school is having more success with attracting non-Catholic families. Kudos went out to Athletic Director Brent Bruich for getting Fall sports underway in compliance with AAA and Health Department guidelines. School Nurse Kim Nutt was also praised for her challenging work as liaison with Health Department in conducting COVID contact tracing. There have been no positive cases reported to date. Additionally, teachers are doing yeoman work with simultaneous on-site and on-line instruction.

**Social Justice and Charitable Giving Commission:** The Mission Committee reported that the Diocese of Little Rock "One Church" campaign which included an on-line event August 29 was deemed a success. About \$2,000 has been received to date. Ongoing parish advertisements for giving were to continue through September 15. A "Missions Report to the Parish" will be submitted on October 18 in conjunction with World Mission Sunday. There was some discussion at that Mission Committee meeting of requesting a booth/tent to be set up that weekend to encourage parishioners to register as volunteers. This was brought up at the Pastoral Council meeting. After some back and forth, the consensus was to continue declining requests for doing things outside of church because of social distancing issues. To maintain peace of mind, on-line alternatives are a more viable option. Drive-by solutions were also discussed. The distribution of Blessing Bags may take place in December. Joe Cordaro would set activity dates in the coming months and would coordinate youth involvement with Morgan Evans while taking pandemic precautions. All mission trips are currently on hold during the pandemic, but a Steering Committee meeting of the Delta Disciples may be held this fall to determine if a trip could be held in January 2021.

**Old Business:** Questions had arisen about sanitizing the church again since the previous 90-day period was about to pass. The anonymous parishioner who first carried this out with a fogging device has since done so again, this time with an electrostatic sprayer. This technique is good for another 90 days.

**Pastor's Report:** Father Tony welcomed the arrival of Associate Pastors Father Balaraju Desam and Father Chandra Ery. Father Desam was ordained in his home parish of Nellore, India in 2003 and was appointed to the Diocese of Little Rock in 2016. Father Ery comes from the Diocese of Cuddapah, India where he was ordained in 2014. He was appointed to the Diocese of Little Rock in 2019. Father Tony also announced Carmelite Sister Ana Brigida Riveros will take an active part in the work of the Hispanic Commission. She takes the place of Olga Rios who'd been in that position for several years. The Commission hasn't met in a few months due to the pandemic, but is set to convene early this month. It was noted that Mass attendance is averaging about 125 people or more. "The attendance is slowly rising," Father said. "I am impressed with seeing new faces that have been away. They know they don't have to be there, but they're driven by their hunger for God."