

January 31, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I wanted to take the opportunity to give everyone in the parish an update and heads-up concerning our buildings and facilities here at St. John's. As you might be aware, in the last several years due to the lack of meeting rooms for groups and preschool/religious education classes, the parish made recourse to fill that need.

For the past seven years, the two larger mobile structures on the south end of our lot have served our needs and allowed us to carry on essential programs and group activities. However, many may not realize two key facts about these buildings. One is that we don't own, but rather lease them every month (we own the smaller mobile closer to the church itself. This is to the tune of \$1,576.74 per month, not including the utilities that they require. The second reality is that they are in increasingly poorer physical shape.

These things, coupled with the situation caused by the pandemic (social distancing and the inability of our current clubs, groups, and classes to fit in the mobile spaces), mean that they have seen only the barest minimum of use. From the standpoint of considering all of these facts, and after consultation with our building expansion committee, the finance council, and the parish council, I have come to the conclusion that the time for their use here is up. In the near term they will be hauled off and the lease terminated.

I realize that this might pose a challenge for us in the near term due to lack of meeting space, but I truly believe that this is the more responsible use of the stewardship that you offer to this parish. I will also say that unless something monumental happens (not that we've had any of that recently!), we hope to resume our course of initiating a capital campaign for a permanent structure. Ideally this campaign would begin this summer.

This will certainly involve some sacrificial giving on the part of all of us, but I truly believe that it will be an integral part of our parish moving forward into the future. Please join me in prayers for the success of this future endeavor. St. Joseph, patron of builders and craftsmen, pray for us!!

In The Lord the Author of life,

-Fr. Chris