

**Our Lady of Guadalupe
Parish and /Sangre de
Cristo Mission, Peralta
NM**

To: Parish Community
From: Rev. Emmanuel Izuka and the Finance Council
Date: 8/15/2020
Re: Communication from Archdiocese of Santa Fe, Vicar General

Dear Families,

As many of you know, the Archdiocese of Santa Fe is currently in the process of a Chapter 11 bankruptcy lawsuit with approximately 400 claims currently filed against the Archdiocese. **Approximately 30% of the claims are not covered by insurance.** As a result, in great detail, we are informing you that there are **two** essential directions that could and will impact the future holds for all parishes of our Archdiocese, including our parish here at Our Lady of Guadalupe and Sangre de Cristo Mission. No parish can “opt out” or “ignore” this Chapter 11 situation.

- 1) Our 1st and most hopeful direction will be if the Chapter 11 suit is settled. If so it would include:
 - A) Monetization (liquidation or mortgage) of most archdiocesan corporate property assets that are

non-essential to the Archdiocesan mission of evangelization.

- B) Parishes Indemnification accomplished through monetary contributions to the Archdiocese' settlement in an indemnification process commonly termed as "channeling injunction." This entails an unknown but significant percentage of parish non-essential assets to their mission of evangelization, including property and savings.
- C) The Archdiocese AND the parishes would be protected from all lawsuits for claimed offenses prior to Chapter 11 filing (December 3, 2018).

2) If the Chapter 11 suit fails to settle, direction 2 will result in:

- A) The Archdiocese corporate proper sued in multiple individual lawsuits. This would likely go on for decades, costing untold millions of dollars in settlements and litigation costs.
- B) Parishes will very likely be sued individually by multiple claimants in multiple lawsuits, resulting in their own massive and ongoing litigation costs and, in worst case, liquidation/loss of ALL parish assets.
- C) No protection of Archdiocese of Santa Fe nor the parishes against future claims.

This is a tragic plight in which the Archdiocese and the parishes now find themselves through no fault of any clergy still serving in ministry, but rather a situation resulting from actions of

persons who are now almost all deceased, and those still living being restricted from ministry.

The Vicar General, the Archbishop and the counselors of the Archdiocese are urgently requesting all parishes to join in with the Archdiocese of Santa Fe in settling this suit so we can continue to serve our people. In order to reach a settlement that will enable us to obtain the channeling injunction, there will be needed significant contributions from cash reserves and non-essential real estate so that we can say, in good faith, in reaching such a settlement that virtually all such property was utilized to contribute to an overall resolution of the claims. The Archdiocese is asking for our help. We are to provide a list of properties which are currently not used for the parishes' primary mission of evangelization so they can be counted as part of the contributing parishes "channeling injunction indemnity."

What does this mean for our parish? We currently have a non-essential property on Gurule Rd that is valued at \$204,100 that we will be listing in the lawsuit settlement. We are hoping this will be sufficient in our offering but it may not be limited to this property. We could be asked for savings and other non-essential properties. This is really an unknown process at this point and as we receive on-going information, we will convey to all our parish families. We believe the Building Fund is protected. The Archdiocese has been doing its part. It has sold the Archbishop's home. The seminary and land in Santa Fe also

sold along with numerous other properties. This has all gone toward the 30% but it is not enough.

We ask for continued prayers and we need to continue to pull together as the great family we have always been and not get discouraged. We know that the building is not what makes a church, each one of us cumulatively makes our church. We are the church and we will not let this break us! Join me in prayer as Jesus spoke to his disciples in John 16:32-33; "Behold the hour is coming and has arrived when each of you will be scattered to his own home and you will leave me alone. But I am not alone, because the Father is with me. I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world."
Amen