Update to Holy Family Parishioners,

Dear Parishioners of Holy Family,

We had our latest parish meeting 6-18-19, and I wanted to share some updates with you.

1. The property of Holy Family was surveyed into three parcels. One for the Church, one for the cemetery, and one for the retreat center, activities center and the majority of the land.
2. The Property is listed with Vern Lewis at Jacobs Reality for $335,000. This does not include either the cemetery or the church building which we are holding onto.
3. The septic system for the retreat center and the church have not passed the county inspection. Therefore, these tanks would need to be replaced if the building continued to be used. Luckily the tank down at the activities center is okay for use for now. Therefore, we should try to limit use of the bathrooms in the church building and the retreat center.
4. We are going to try and find estimates for putting in a new septic system in. Whether we put in a new system will depend on if we have the money and whether we believe it’s a good investment. The county is okay with us selling the retreat center as is, with the understanding that whoever buys the property would need to fix the tank.
5. I will be checking on what our options are with regard to the septic system for the Church. We don’t have the money to replace it. If we had the money, the question becomes should we replace it knowing that it isn’t going to be a church for much longer.

In our discussion one of the things that we talked about was the idea of allowing a community center to form. This would entail a group coming forward to take ownership of the building. It would no longer be a church. For this to happen there would to be full backing from the parishioners. It would also require a group to come forward from the community to take on the project. I think the diocese would not allow us to give it away, but perhaps we could sell it for a small amount. So, at the meeting it was decided that we should ask around the community to see if there is such a group of individuals that would be interested in taking on such a project. There is no guarantee that this would go through, we would still need diocesan approval, but it’s a possibility at this point.

In the meantime, we will keep it as the Church, but I think it makes sense for us to consider what the long-term possibilities are. So, I invite you to talk to your friends and see if anybody would have an interest in being in charge of such an effort, or would be willing to assist with something like running it as a community center.

If you have anybody who is interested in leading such a project have them email me: pastor@cuyunacatholic.org or call my office: 218-545-2523.

A few other things that were mentioned was that we should talk to the realtor about getting a bigger sign, I spoke to the realtor and he said he could bring a bigger sign. He did say that 90% of activity comes through online advertising. The question of what the going rate is for lake property per foot of lakeshore. The realtor said that since there haven’t been any recent sales on the lake this number is hard to estimate. Every lake is different, and the estimated value is greatly influenced by other sales of similar types. The other factor is that our property is pretty unique in that it isn’t just a lake home.

That’s all for now, looking ahead to July and August, I am booked up on all the Tuesdays. I don’t have any nights available in July, but if people want to meet they are certainly free to do so. Looking at August, I have availability but it would be on a different day. I can meet Wed. Aug 7th at 5:30 PM. I will set that aside and plan to meet, unless that doesn’t work for people.

Let’s keep asking the Lord to guide us and show us his will.

In Christ,

-Fr. Eli