Holy Family Update email after Meeting on 8-7-19

Dear Holy Family Parishioners,

I wanted to update you on our latest parish meeting which was held on Wed. Aug. 7th at 5:30. The main focus of our conversation was a discussion of winterization of the buildings. It was decided in a previous meeting that winterization should be pursued if we haven’t sold the property by the end of August. (A reminder that we have the bulk of the Holy Family property for sale, Not the Church or the cemetery). At this meeting we revisited this and confirmed that we should plan to close the buildings during the fall if we don’t have a buyer. The principle reasons for this are:

1. To save money, we don’t have the money to pay for heating and water etc.
2. It may help us avoid needing to address the septic tank issues on the Church and retreat center.

We decided to have Richard Zak look into getting on the schedule of Adam Livy to do this in September. Richard also has a contact who can do a septic system design for the church. If we are able to sell the property this may allow us to install a holding tank which would allow us to continue using the Church.

The septic systems for the church and retreat center have both failed compliance testing recently. There were differing opinions on whether this meant the building could not be used currently, or if use was fine for now until October when the counties deadline for compliance is set. Fr. Eli will talk to the county to get more clarity on this issue.

The other focus of the conversation was on a potential buyer that has come forward. The current listed price is $335,000. They came in with an offer of $225,000. We talked a great deal on the topic. Some thought we should talk to Ecclesia Domestica to see if they would pay that similar price. Fr. Eli said that when he talked to Kevin a few months ago (when the property was just on the market), they didn’t have that kind of money. The other issue is that they still haven’t pursued Recognition as a Catholic organization on the Diocesan level. They would still be interested in getting the property for free or at a much lower price, but the price is a obstacle for them, and the recognition as a Catholic public association of the faithful as well as the price were obstacles for the diocese back when we met at the Diocese.

Other people thought we should stick to a higher price. There was quite a lot of discussion. Things like: What does it hurt to counter their offer? What’s a reasonable counter? The property is valuable for the right buyer… but who knows how long we will have to wait? We have bills to pay, making a deal would allow us to pay our bills and keep the Church open through the winter rather than winterizing it and shutting it down. What’s our goal? To get as much money as possible or to work to keep the Church open so we can continue using it.

After these questions and discussion and others, we decided to put in a counter for $275,000.

The buyers interest is to do a private camp ground (RV’s and tents). They have said they would tear down the retreat center, and plan to keep the activity center.

I thank all who came and participated. It was a good discussion and we covered the pertinent issues. I am hopeful that we can work out a deal with this buyer so that we can get a little more breathing room and gain some time.

I’ll keep you posted on what develops.

In Christ,

-Fr. Eli