

## Summary of August 2016 Pastoral Council Meeting

**Financial Report:** Month of July was taken off. Two reports will be submitted at next meeting. 2015-16 fiscal year was third best year ever with a just over \$2,000,000 in contributions. We should know by September if the capital campaign has had any impact on regular stewardship giving.

**Finance and Administration Commission:** There were 12 applicants for newly-opened Youth Minister position and eight for the Director of Religious Education (DRE) Five of the Youth Minister applicants are being interviewed and three of those who applied for the DRE opening.

**Social Justice/Community Outreach Commission:** The Pro-Life Committee notes that Respect Life weekend is the first one in October. The Missions Committee had several updates. Bags for the monthly Pack the Pantry collection are now being inserted into church bulletins. HELP and Handyman Services continue to reach out to those in need. One parishioner recently had her stair handrail, entrance stoop, oven and kitchen cabinets repaired. The Missions for Transitions Committee continues to collect and supply furnishings for the needy. Nine men took part in the Men of Faith Appalachia Trio, but given the July heat next year's will be in June. The Community Assistance volunteers have aided 21 families to date. They're also helping Last Chance Ministries. The group needs more volunteers to make all the necessary home visits. The Visiting Ministry is also short-staffed. Marsha Mayfield is stepping down as chair of the SJCO Commission at the end of the year and new leadership is being sought for her impending replacement.

**Education and Faith Formation Commission:** Several Adult Faith Offerings are coming up which include Catechism of the Catholic Church, 33 Days to Morning Glory, Walking with Purpose, Financial Peace University, Sharing the Journey, Festival of Praise and the America Needs Fatima Rosary Crusade. There's also a "Joy of Love" presentation and a Divine Mercy Family Worship Concert scheduled. A major event is set for October 28 with the "Passion and Purpose of Marriage" presentation by author Allen Hunt. Fifty tickets have been sold so far and 900 are available. St. Joseph School spent the summer gearing up for its start on August 15 with 450 students. Much of it has been spent on implementing a new data base mandated by the Diocese. The Flea Market contributes over \$730 per student's tuition each year, but it is in desperate need of more workers and people to donate items for sale.

**Hispanic Commission:** Brenda Sanchez (Navarro) is their new Lector Coordinator. Fuerza Transformadora has a men's retreat set for September 2-4. EESA has a retreat called "Juan" scheduled for September 23-25. Renovacion Carismatica has a concert on August 27. A recent yard sale yielded nearly \$470 which will go to the church's capital campaign. Leftover items were donated to the St. Joseph Flea Market.

**Stewardship Commission:** The annual Stewardship Month will again be in October. New Witness DVDS will be screened and our priests' homilies will focus on the subject. The message of donating "just one hour" of time and talent will also be emphasized.

**Old Business:** Five hundred and four pledges currently add up to \$ 5,513,000 for the capital campaign. The Guidance and Giving organization helping with the campaign is well-pleased with our progress. The old Bazaar storage building has been sold for \$2,000. It will be taken down after the Bazaar to allow work to begin on the expanded parking area near the cemetery.

**Pastor's Report:** Father Tony spoke at length about his pilgrimage to Guatemala in July. Part of it centered on visiting the shrine for the martyred Oklahoma priest, Father Stanley Rother, who was killed in Guatemala during its civil war in the 1980s. His cause for sainthood is currently being studied. Nine bishops and 60 priests were in attendance. Father Tony said everyone should consider a pilgrimage, even if it's as close as the ones being held though November at Our Lady of Good Counsel in honor of the Year of Mercy. "They're worth anyone's time," he said. "They leave you feeling renewed and refreshed."