

## **Summary of February 2016 Pastoral Council Meeting**

**Financial Report:** December was a normal month. The only expenses out of the ordinary were for additional work on the audio-visual system (a multi-year project that's still under budget) and the capital campaign. The old maintenance van had major mechanical problems and a 2011 Ford F-150 with low mileage was purchased as a replacement.

**Social Justice and Community Outreach Commission:** The Beacon of Hope Ministry has planned a luncheon for men who've lost their wives on March 5. Barbeque will be served and Father Jack Sidler will be the guest speaker. The Pro-Life Committee was involved in the distribution of baby bottles for the Life Choices "Change for Life" fundraising campaign. Around \$2500 was collected in support of Life Choice's mission to empower women to make life-affirming choices in pregnancy situations. The Missions Committee's Handyman Services and H.E.L.P. Program has been very active. Sixteen volunteers provided smoke detectors, installed a storage building and shelving for Last Chance Ministries, solved electrical problems at City of Hope trailer and repaired nearby playground equipment, installed handicap ramp handrails at a parishioner's home, and delivered three twin beds to a local needy family. The Community Assistance Committee is operating normally and has agreed to pay Last Chance Ministries' rent for one year to help it become more sustainable. Craig Strause and Raymond Gunther made the January Christ the King Honduran Mission trip. (There's a report on their work in the next Catholic Cabin.) Soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes will again be collected for the June medical mission to Honduras at the February 24 Lenten Supper. The effort to support depressed parishes continues. There's a parish in South East Arkansas under Father Eddie D'Almeida's jurisdiction needing office partitions. Efforts are being made to locate and donate them. Our Lady of Guadalupe in Glenwood may be another church in need. New leaders are being sought to head both the Visiting Ministry and the committee on Social/Legislative Issues.

**Stewardship Commission:** Esther Sanchez, Kyle Zinno, Ron Gatto and Mark Bailey are joining the Commission as new members.

**Hispanic Commission:** It was scheduled to host the first Lenten Soup Supper on February 17. The admission charge was a white wash cloth, child-size toothbrush or package of baby wipes in support of the Faulkner County Day School. Sister Brigida has scheduled a Lenten Retreat for the Hispanic Community March 4-6. The School of St. Andrews will be hosting an "Integral Healing of the Family" retreat on March 13 at the Conway Expo Center. St. Andrews will host another retreat at Cold Springs, AR March 10-12 called "El Secreto de Pablo."

**Old Business:** The Capital Campaign is moving forward. Guidance in Giving representative Charles Recznik is here readying materials for the kickoff weekend. Invitations to attend a number of fundraising receptions are being sent out to parishioners. Some of these will be at the priests' home and others will held in the Parish Hall. Volunteer cards were being placed in pews to solicit help with the receptions, mailings and phone calls needed bring in pledges. This is a \$10 million project, and if \$6 million can be reached in the next few months visible progress can be made. "I pray people will be as generous as God is to us," Father John said.

**New Business:** St. Joseph School is represented on the local Hazard Mitigation Board which identifies potential hazards in Faulkner County and considers scenarios to mitigate against damage. If the school ever elects to apply for FEMA funds to build a federally financed shelter it must have a representative on the Mitigation Board. It also has to approve detailed plans drawn up every five years. The Pastoral Council signed off on the latest document from FEMA.

**Pastor's Report:** Father John spoke enthusiastically about the various Year of Mercy events coming up in both the Diocese and parish. He also spoke about the activities surrounding Lent.