

Summary of January 2016 Pastoral Council Meeting

Financial Report: November was a good month made better by having five Sundays. The collections totaled \$183,238.66.

Commission Reports:

Education and Faith Formation— A year-end slide show on parish activities has been distributed to the community. Meetings have been held with a Diocesan representative on ways to connect Catholic singles over 35 across the state. A Year of Mercy slideshow was presented at a recent Woman to Woman Forum. St. Joseph School faculty will be briefed on January 27. Joe and Heather Cordero have come forward as Natural Family Planning trainers for our parish. Ann Hargis and Peggy O'Reilly are leading Bible Study sessions on request for Bethlehem House employees and residents. Father Robert and Paul Welter will begin leading sessions for men of the parish inspired by the book "Be A Man" by Father Larry Richards. Information is being gathered for the 2016-2017 St. Joseph School budget. Information for parents will be forthcoming so they can budget for their tuition obligations. The School Principal Search Committee plans to begin interviews in February. A \$5000 technology grant has been attained for the school thanks to School Board Member Joan Granholm.

Social Justice/Community Outreach Commission—The Commission sponsored a program on "Poverty Awareness" that was presented January 12. The Pack the Pantry program continues to be successful but volunteers to handle donations are needed for the Hispanic and 5:00 p.m. Masses. Collection of soap/toothbrushes /toothpaste for the Honduras Mission need to be completed by early April. Contact with depressed parishes continues to be made. Our Lady of Guadalupe in Glenwood may be in need. A program application form for "Handymen Evangelizing Local Parishioners"(H.E.L.P.) is available on the Parish website. The goal H.E.L.P. is to assist needy parishioners and community families with handyman chores. The dates for the next Men of Faith Appalachia Trip to Auxier, Kentucky are July 12-16. Various parish groups are being contacted about serving meals at Bethlehem House on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Similar efforts to help Last Chance Ministries are also under discussion.

Old Business: Guidance in Giving representative Charles Recznick is working on the framework of what's to come with the Capital Campaign. He'll be on site from early February until sometime in May. Both the Diocese and Rome must sign off on the project before work can begin which is contingent on having 80% of the funds pledged or in hand.

New Business: Questions were raised about worn paint coming down in the Adoration Chapel. The Buildings and Grounds Committee is aware and will explore when the new sanctuary roof is finished.

Pastor's Report: Father John thanked those responsible for Christmas decorations in church and the music ministers as well. He spoke of the ten parish families affected by flooding, and the Bishop's letter regarding a special collection for victims around the state. The possibility of parish leaders making a pilgrimage to the Diocesan Doors of Mercy at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Little Rock on February 6 was also discussed.