

December 6, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

+JMJ

A couple weeks ago we had another finance council meeting. Here are the highlights:

- Deb Brickner, our new Finance Manager, led us successfully through the financial reports: the balance sheet, the income and expense report, accounts payable.
- The repair on the church gutters by Lee Construction seems to have been very successful. With the very extensive rain we had in a couple prior weeks, there was no mudslide out of the flowerbeds onto the sidewalk, as I have seen since I arrived.
- The federal PPP loan (COVID relief) has been used, and we applied for forgiveness through our bank. The bank notified us that it is recommending that our loan indeed be forgiven, based on the reports we filed about how the loan was used. The bank said it could take another 90 days to get a response back from the federal government.
- There are numerous lines on the balance sheet that indicate money reserved for special projects. Deb will be slowly investigating all of these accounts to figure out their exact purpose.
- Since my arrival, I have sometimes noticed how the collection budget numbers in the bulletin have not lined up precisely with the income and expense report we take to finance council. Deb discovered that the way the budgeted total-year weekend collection number was spread through the months in the budget was inconsistent. This is mainly because some months have four weekends, some five. We think we have fixed the problem, and as a result the budgeted amount to collect each weekend is \$14,362. So, beginning with this current bulletin, you will see that number as the budgeted goal in the collections report each week.
- The total amount for Grubb to do routine maintenance on the blowers in the domes was \$2,665. They should be out again in the spring for routine maintenance.
- We discussed the possibility of using some of the leftover reserve school account monies to send as parish support to the two Catholic schools our children are attending. It seems to be a good solution for how to use money from those accounts, since it would still end up benefiting our students in Catholic schools. It was noted that we have to speak to the people who were part of the organizations that set aside this money in the first place. Examples would be the Mohawk club, the Music Boosters etc. We have to do more research before we would make such a decision with money from these accounts. As we stated in an earlier bulletin letter, the idea is to make it clear that our parish is supporting the Catholic schools our children are attending; and therefore relieve pressure anyone might feel for trying to be full-time participants at both parishes.
- The trailers storing festival items from the school property are almost filled, at the time of this letter.
- The Diocese approved the sale of the school property to the Fostoria Economic Development Corporation. FEDC is writing up the contract, which will then be negotiated with the help of the Diocese. Details will be forthcoming once we have them concretely in writing, which should be soon.

- MGM Communications out of Maumee, Ohio came to help us decide how to install a live streaming camera permanently. This company was recommended to me by another pastor in Toledo. Although that other pastor said it took three months to get the specific camera for the job, MGM on the very afternoon after their visit found a camera. So, I ordered it, since they are pretty hard to come by. The camera cost \$2,600. We still have to buy some other equipment to handle the sound, and then we will purchase a new laptop dedicated just to live streaming. Then, we will have to run the necessary ethernet+power cables from the computer room on the second floor of the offices. I did have a parishioner offer to donate to this already. I am not sure of the final cost. The pastor who recommended MGM to me said they did the whole project for about \$5,000. I think it's totally worth the expense to keep our homebound and nursing home parishioners nourished by our parish efforts. During Covid, I've run across numerous people who have said to me, "Father, we haven't been back to church yet because of Covid, but please know that we are watching you every weekend online!"

- We received an unrestricted donation of \$100,000 that we are going to invest with surplus cash from our savings and checking accounts into a general account into the Diocesan Endowment Trust. The interest gained from such an account should be really helpful for various future projects. The Catholic Endowment Trust of the Diocese invests money in a socially responsible way (not investing in anything contrary to Catholic social teaching), and the return on investments is pretty competitive as well. I think it's a no-brainer.

So there are the highlights. Have a blessed week!

*In cordibus Iesu et Mariae,*

Father Poggemeyer