

Date: January 11, 2021

To: Pastoral Council & Finance Committee Members

From: Fr. Mark

Subject: Status of Parish Life

Seeing that meetings are not being held for the safety of others, I simply wanted to keep you informed on the status of parish life happenings:

I. Financial

- **Income/Expense:** The parish is doing good with its finances. Our parishioners have been very generous, even more so since the pandemic began. A lot of people have switched over to electronic-giving, or they are simply mailing in their offertory. Our expenses have remained constant. Our Pooled Investment Fund provided us with the necessary \$25,000 of interest income this year to cover our 2021 cemetery maintenance and mowing expenses.

II. Capital Improvements

- Capital Improvements completed last year:
 - Our Lady of the Snows:
 - Parking lot cracks filled, and driveway sealed.
 - New sound system for the pulpit
 - New flower garden in the front of the church
 - New motion detector light in the front
 - Hedges in the front removed.
 - Broken shed and snowblowers removed.

- Rectory:
 - Downstairs bathroom renovated – handicap accessible.
 - Deacon Steve now has an office.
- St. Rose of Lima Church:
 - Roof repaired by Tuite Associates at no charge...Thank you!
 - New Sound System
 - New electronic bell strikers installed.
 - Huge tree in the front of the church was removed.
- Capital improvements needed for this year:
 - Our Lady of the Snows:
 - Handicap ramp sanded and repainted.
 - Additional handrails going down to the basement.
 - Rectory:
 - Six vinyl windows need replacing.
 - Vinyl siding needed to cover the exposed wood on the exterior of the building.
 - High Street kitchen steps need replacing.
 - Repointing of the brickwork foundation near the High Street kitchen entrance needs attention.
 - St. Rose of Lima Church:
 - Spray foaming between the exterior walls and the roof, and around the chimney is needed.

- Fire/Smoke alarm system is needed in the parish hall with it being connected to the upstairs per the Littleton Fire Department
- St. Rose Parking Lot:
 - Cracks filled and driveway sealed (every two years)

III. Outreach Ministry:

- Homebound: Even though we cannot personally visit shut-ins per Bishop Libasci's orders, the parish office is in constant contact with them. They receive weekly parish bulletins and Advent & Lent spiritual booklets. They know that they can call in with any need that they might have.
- Nursing Homes: Again, I cannot visit or celebrate Mass at this time. They too receive bulletins and supplies. Emergencies or Last Rites are handled via the direction of the institution, usually outside or through windows.
- Hospital: Emergencies only and with full protective gear.

IV. Masses/Sacraments:

- Masses:
 - Both weekend Masses and weekday Masses have been well attended.
 - All safety precautions have been well received and practiced.
 - The videotaping of the Mass for YouTube also helps people feel connected, along with our Facebook Page and the Flocknote emails that go out as a group blast. Several people have volunteered to make all of this happen. The only thing we need is some additional volunteers to help wipe down the pews and surfaces following our weekend Masses.

- The additional “Communion Only” time on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. is also still being utilized and appreciated.
- Confessions: They have never stopped, and additional time have been offered during Lent and Advent. All safety precautions have been practiced.
- Weddings, Funerals, and Baptisms: All are being celebrated, and all Covid-19 precautions are being adhered to.
- Music Ministry & Church Environment Committee – God bless them, they are holding us together through this journey!

V. Religious Education:

- Between Nick De Mayo (our Coordinator of Religious Education) and Linda Noyes (our Parish Secretary) everything has been going pretty smoothly. Littleton High School denied us access to use their facility this year, so everything is being done via online education using Gospel Weeklies through Pflaum. Our Religious Education teachers are supportive via the phone to assist the parents with the weekly lessons. The children also receive a physical copy of their assignments.
- In the Spring of 2021, the parish hall will be used to educate those children scheduled to celebrate the Sacraments of 1st Reconciliation, 1st Eucharist, and Confirmation. The celebration of 1st Eucharist and Confirmation by Bishop Libasci will be scheduled for the Fall of 2021.
- RCIA – No candidates came forward this past fall.
- Adult Faith Continuing Education – Something is being planned for our Lenten Season of 2021. Deacon Steve & Linda will be heading this up.

VI. Staff/Clergy:

- Parish Secretary: As you know, Sharon Palmerchuck retired in 2020 and the parish hired Linda Noyes to work Monday through Friday. Linda has also completed the process to be a Notary Public and to provide this service to the parish.
- Deacon Steve: I believe he is doing okay. Obviously, this time is hard for all of us however, I know he keeps a pretty balanced life. He and Linda received a little puppy named Maggie into their home, and I believe it was the best thing that could have happened to them.
- Me:
 - I'm doing okay. I did gain the Covid-19, not the virus, but the poundage! I had my annual physical just after Thanksgiving and my doctor was not pleased! I weighed in at 311 lbs. I should be around 225 lbs. As of this morning, I weighed in at 301 lbs., so here I go again!
 - I believe the parish is doing AWESOME, considering all that is happening! Good people and a generous God!
 - As you know, I'm also the Dean of the White Mountain Deanery, so I'm the support to all the parishes in the top one third of NH. From North Conway, to Lincoln, to Woodsville, and North. It has not been an easy assignment over the last two years. I'm cutting back on my whiskey consumption, but.... Keep the prayers coming!

VII. Other:

- Knights of Columbus, Alcoholics Anonymous, Red Cross Blood Drives, Women's prayer group, and Ultreya are all active and adhere to the safety precautions.

- Men's prayer group is meeting virtually using Zoom.
- All new parishioners who register with the parish receive a welcome letter and parish brochure.
- The Sisters on the Hill: There is only about seven living at the convent currently. The other three live elsewhere within Littleton. They seem to be doing okay, just naturally disconnected at this time. If a death happens, the funeral Mass is celebrated here at St. Rose of Lima Church. They are holding private communion services.

Overall, I see positive things ahead. Our parishioners are ready to get back to normal. But, most especially, they want to socialize! The Roaring 20's may happen once again!

I love being here and I'm honored to be your pastor!

Fr. Mark