

Financial Committee Meeting and Parish Council Meeting

Financial Committee

The Committee reviewed the financial status at half year and noted a positive balance with respect to the budget for the year. (Income and revenue pages for the half year in the bulletin). They noted the growth of the Stock Portfolio. For example, the endowment for the cemetery has risen to \$300,000.

The Committee reviewed the drawing and bid for a semi-circle front bus entrance to the school. This improvement adds to safety and opens up the back of the school for future development. The proposed expenditure of \$72,000 was approved.

The Committee reviewed the proposal for improving the seating area of the Grotto with paving stones and landscaping area behind this with grass and small trees. The paving stones are donated. The Committee accepted the proposal and bid of \$56,000.

The overall agenda is to use stock gains and other gifts to reduce deferred maintenance, improve the beauty and Godly tranquility of the enclave of St. Joseph, and to promote growth in Church and school.

Parish Council Meeting

The members reviewed the highlights of the Finance Committee and accepted them. The search for a new principal for the school is undergirded by the desire to have continuity in leadership. The Youth Program reviewed eight youth activities and added others. The Youth Program is under the oversight of Mrs. Melissa Campbell. The youth like their Grotto Club House.

The Committee then discerned the use of intinction during the Advent season and their thoughts. There was broad consensus that receiving the Body and Blood of Christ by intinction was a positive move. They noted the small number receiving from the Chalice and that almost the entire congregation received by intinction. Several noted that they do not like to be fed but rather to accept the lightly intincted host by their fingers as one receives a gift from a friend. They noted some confusion when this practice of intinction was abruptly discontinued. They asked Fr. Tom to present to the Bishop that the Parish Council speaking for the parish was most positive about intinction and would like to continue.

The mantra and vision for the school is: **A Rural Oasis of Superior Education Blended with Faith.** Fr. Tom presented a widening scope of such a vision by speaking about St. Joseph in its entirety as **An Oasis of Godly Tranquility that Refreshes the Spirit.** This combination of church, school, Grotto, and cemetery invites people into a safe haven for reflection, prayer, and peace. People take this back to their homes. The Council then considered how this vision might be amplified and activated.

Fr. Thomas Acker, S.J.
Administrator