

APPROVED

St. Joseph Parish Minutes of Annual Meeting October 19, 2008

Fr. Don opened the meeting with prayer.

Comments by Fr. Don

The parish had some good things happen but still struggled. Five commissions are up and running and doing good work. They provide many opportunities for spiritual growth for our youth, adults and seniors; good social outreach through the Love Life program and the food pantry; stewardship books will be completed soon. Fr. Don and Deacon Mike are starting to work on evangelization.

St. Joseph Parish has turned the corner financially. If we stay where we were last year as far as giving, we will be able to pay all our bills and pay off some debt. The budget has been cut by over half over the past three years.

Fr. Don is pleased with the spirit of the community and how well the quad-parishes are working together. The diocese is using our linkage as a new way of looking at church – linking rather than merging. Fr. Don has also been contacted by a national magazine in regard to how we work together.

There is a good chance that we could get another deacon in 2009.

Questions and Answers

Q: Update on formula for Bishop's Appeal.

A: Fr. Don will continue to work with the diocese to try to get the appeal amount reduced for St. Joseph Parish.

Q: Are parishioners meeting Advancing the Mission pledges.

A: Yes. Money the parish receives is used to pay off debt.

Q: Will the new bishop be making changes to our parishes.

A: Probably not.

Q: How do we get more people here?

A: We have to be welcoming. Fr. Don and Deacon Mike are beginning to work on this. They plan on first contacting parishioners who are registered members of the parish but do not contribute. Then they will contact Catholics in the area who are not registered, and finally to contact others in the area.

Q: Do we receive wills?

A: Yes. We recently received gifts of over \$100,000 for Trinity St. Joseph School which will be used for tuition assistance and for St. Patrick Food Pantry. Two other nice gifts were used to pay off debt.

Q: Where will we be going in the future as for the use of the school building.

A: The goal is to have it be a youth center. It does need to be brought up to code. The youth ministry program is growing. The number of youth attending depends on the event.