

## Pastoral Council and Presbyteral Meeting

Thursday, April 11, 2019

Friday, April 12, 2019

I. Update of St. Edward School-It was announced at a town hall meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> that St. Edward School would close after this year because they cannot secure a balanced budget that allows the school to be sustainable after this year and St. Edward Church is not able to financially support the school with a subsidy of the amount that would be needed. Our office has been assisting the teachers and support staff to find employment in our other Catholic schools if that is their desire.

The PTO did have the It Takes a Village fundraiser and raised over \$21,000 that is being distributed, based on their years' experience at St. Edward, to the teachers since they did not receive a raise this year in appreciation for all that they have done.

Any funds that remain in the Save Our School fund will be distributed to the other Catholic Schools for scholarships for the students that transfer to those schools based on financial needs of the families. By the end of May, we hope to know how much the schools will receive based on an estimate of what expenses the school will have till July. Many of the schools waved the registration and building fees for these students.

Our office met with Fr. Juan this past Tuesday to discuss materials that other schools might need as well as how our office will be assisting with the closing of the school year.

St. Edward's parish has begun discussion of how the buildings will be used.

II. We have completed the school visits for the year. As of now Mark Tyler, the principal of St. John in Russellville is retiring after this year and Fr. Jack has already hired Vivian Fox for his replacement. Vivian was a principal at St. Joseph in Paris many years ago and has moved to Russellville. Her husband, Larry, is currently in the diaconate formation class.

Karen Flake, president of Mt. St. Mary, also announced her retirement. The Mount has hired Pattie Davis, a former teacher, principal, and associate superintendent of our Diocese to replace Karen. Pattie also served as a Superintendent in the Diocese of Las Cruces in New Mexico.

III. Update on the ISPD (Institute for School and Parish Development) and Fort Smith Schools are continue to meet on a regular basis and are involving more and more people. The convocation is on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and the meeting with the Executive and Steering Committee is on June 17<sup>th</sup>. The final Strategic Growth Plan will be presented on July 8<sup>th</sup> to the Executive Committee and Steering Committee. Our office will be attending the convocation and will assist the schools in any way that we are needed as they make decisions of how to move forward with the plan.

IV. This week the elementary Catholic Schools have been taking the Terra Nova Achievement Tests. We look forward to receiving those results by mid-May.

V. Update on the Catholic Extension Grant with Catholic School Management with St. John, Hot Springs; NLR Catholic Academy; St. Theresa, LR; Immaculate Heart of Mary, NLR; and Sacred Heart in Morrilton-They have started working on building databases that includes alumni, parents, friends, parishioners, and other donors if they don't have that already.

They are also creating a communication matrix and planning out what type of communication should go out, when it should go out, and to whom it should go out.

VI. Vocations' Day is scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> beginning at 9 o'clock at Our Lady of Good Council and the House of Formation for the Little Rock and surrounding area 5<sup>th</sup> grade students (286 students). We invite any priest that would like to attend. We begin the day with Mass with the Bishop and then there are many sessions in which they hear about religious life, interact with our seminarians, tour the House of Formation, praise the Lord in song, participate in Eucharistic Adoration, and learn about opportunities for later spiritual formation from our Youth Department.

Earlier this year there was a Vocations' Day in Fort Smith for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in northwest Arkansas. There was also a Vocations' Day in Jonesboro for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Jonesboro, Paragould, Pocahontas, and West Memphis.

VII. Latino Enrollment- This summer Buddy Greeson, principal at Sacred Heart in Morrilton and another representative from his school will be attending the Latino Enrollment Institute at Notre Dame in June. The LEI offers a framework to help schools attract and serve Latino families at their school. In addition to the summer program, the principals are placed on a team and meet monthly via the internet (ZOOM) over the course of a year. They will work on modules each month that help them dive deeper into topics and ideas that were presented at the summer conference and discuss challenges, successes, and best practices with the other principals. In past years, St. Theresa, St. Edward, and Immaculate Conception in Fort Smith have attended Latino Enrollment.

Any questions?

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of the Catholic Schools.