

# Lots of Words this Week from Fr. Robert



October 14, 2018

## **Inclement Weather**

For the safety of our parish staff and participants in parish events, in the event of inclement weather the Parish Office, parish activities and the Outreach Center will follow the same policy as St. Anne-Pacelli Catholic School. In other words, if the school is closed, the Parish Office and the Outreach Center are closed and all parish events are canceled. The friars will continue the regular Mass schedule. Please use caution when deciding to come to Mass during inclement weather. We would be heartbroken if anything happened to you on your way to church.

## **Gee, so what did your guys do all week ..... Meetings and Meetings and Meetings**

The Pastoral Council met this week. Below please find a synopsis of these important parish leadership meetings. Rest assured that parish lay leadership is essential for the success of any parish community. The Finance Council and Eucharistic Ministers meetings were canceled because of the storm.

## **The Parish Council discussed the following items:**

- Fr. Robert took the Pastoral Council on a tour of the house the parish purchased at the corner of Trinity Drive and Kay Circle. He also shared with the Pastoral Council the locations and condition of the properties the parish has purchased on Sheffield Drive. A discussion followed regarding possible uses of the house.
- Suzanne Zimmermann, our Director of Religious Education, presented some possible changes to the way our parish celebrates First Communions. After a lot of study it was suggested that we find a way to integrate the parish celebration of First Communions into regular Sunday liturgies. The logistics of this change remain to be worked out but the Council was happy to approve this proposal and is excited about sharing this important day in the life of our little ones with the parish at large.
- The Pastoral Council lent its support to the future possibility of broadcasting our parish liturgies on the internet. The funding for the requisite equipment is available and we will share the details with the parish on how to receive the broadcasts in your home once everything is up and running. It was felt that the ability to share our liturgies with the homebound and our military personnel who are deployed was very exciting.
- Cathey Turner and Heidi Rehak agreed to begin work on a parish "Facility Use Policy" for outside groups who wish to use our facilities. It will be presented to the Pastoral Council next month for discussion and possible approval.
- The Pastoral Council endorsed the idea of exploring ways to be present to our Catholic military personnel in Fort Benning. While some concerns were expressed it was agreed that we should always be willing to find ways to open our parish and our hearts to those who chose to serve our country. In a similar vein the topic of Columbus State University came up. The friars assured those at the table that we are exploring ways to get the parish involved in the lives of our Catholics at Columbus State.
- In the future the Parish will be reaching out to our senior citizens and homebound to gather some emergency contact information and see how they are doing. A number of our senior citizen have very few if any family residing in the Columbus area. It is our hope that our parish can find ways to reach out to them and be present to their needs.

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**Fr. Robert and the Parish Staff informed the Pastoral Council about the following:**

- Our Parish/School will be audited on our compliance of the Protecting God's Children Program, also known as VIRTUS. This audit will take place at the end of October and will be conducted by a national auditing firm.
- Kimberly Kaup brought the Pastoral Council up to speed on the substantial progress we've made with the Capital Campaign and the remaining projects we hope to accomplish. The results have been very impressive indeed. A bulletin insert will be presented in the near future to make sure the entire parish knows the great things that have been accomplished through our Capital Campaign.
- Fr. Robert shared where we stand with our transition plan and was encouraged by the Pastoral Council to find ways to re-evaluate all of the long term parish contracts, i.e. landscaping, cleaning, etc. The Pastoral Council members stated that, for the most part, the parish is happy with the friars' presence and also happy with the progress being made with the transition plan. By the way, Kimberly and Suzanne worked all day in the office and then stayed into the evening for the Pastoral Council Meeting. I am sure you will agree that we are really blessed with a dedicated Parish Staff and I am sure everyone is very grateful for the sacrifices they willingly make for the good of our parish.

**A Busy Week for Our Friars**



Transitus is the annual celebration by Franciscans throughout the world of the passing of St. Francis from this life to life with God. It is celebrated the night of October 3, the eve of his feast day. The word "transitus" is Latin, meaning passage or crossing. There is no one ritual for Transitus, and therefore many expressions have developed for this liturgy. Certain prayers or writings of St. Francis and accounts from his early biographers are common. One of them, "The Life of St. Francis" by Thomas of Celano, recalls how when Francis was dying he asked that the washing of



the feet from Gospel of John be read. This Scriptural passage is often included in the Transitus. Since Francis spoke of dying as embracing Sister Death, the ritual is solemn but not sad and inspires the participants to richly live the Gospel until the end of their days. Our Friars celebrated the Transitus on Wed., Oct. 3 at St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church.

On Thurs., Oct. 4th our friars also celebrated the Feast of St. Francis in Jonesboro, Georgia with Bishop Gregory Hartmayer. The thirteen friars in the photo on the right are the Conventual Franciscans who serve in the State of Georgia in both the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Diocese of Savannah in various parishes and ministries. It was a great opportunity for the friars to catch up and enjoy delicious food and share wonderful fellowship!

