

From the Pastor's Desk:

Let us be a time of renewing. It is a time to learn to pull back from those things that distract us. We can do this by fasting and abstaining from certain things to help reduce some of the distractions and help us unite with the poor. There is an article on the website that explains more about this - see "materials" under faith formation. We can also work to increase our prayer and devotions. This is a great way to do the opposite of fasting - it is a way of moving to feasting on the Lord and in growing our relationship with that God who has given all for us. The most crucial thing is learning what to feast upon.

The Finance Council met this week and we had the opportunity to look at our financial situation now that we have hit the mid-point in the fiscal year. I am happy to say that with the good work of our new Business Manager, and as a result of all the work that we put into revising the budget, it all "adds up." There were no major areas of problem, and with accurate figures at our fingertips any areas that need to be addressed stood out and have been marked to be tightened. We are on track with our budget, and on the whole, we are staying within the boundaries of that established budget. We also examined several important financial areas such as building sales, the solar project, our school investment accounts, and the resolution of our tax situation with the city. I left the meeting very encouraged that we are on the right track.

Deacon Stan and I have conferenced about the Hospital Ministry and any who are interested may contact him to be part of this important way that we can care for others. I also met with the new Catholic chaplain at the prison and was very pleased with him. He is looking to form a strong partnership with the parish. If you would like to be part of the Prison Ministry there will be an orientation in mid-March. Contact Dave Bourgeois at 978-502-3833 for more information. Any current Eucharistic ministers that would like to bring communion to the homebound, please contact Ann Mari Laroche at 978-337-6603. I am so pleased that we are opening these new ways for people to be involved in the work of Jesus Christ ministering to others.

We really are fortunate to have so many ways of being involved in the life of Jesus. Between our worship, our communal activity, our school, and the various ministries we regularly are engaging in and are developing, the parish feels more alive as time is going on. This I attribute to the work of the Spirit. Many more blessings are due to come. Thanks be to God!

Peace,

Fr. Steve