

From the Pastor's Desk:

There are many times that we can walk past people in difficult circumstances and not really notice. There are many people in the world who are in need of God's love and of our help. Sometimes we can be more interested in gaining the favor of those who can give us something. Really Our Lord tells us to not worry about what someone can give you in return, but to be generous and loving to all - and God will repay you. This parish made a good display of this in the collection for Fr. Maximillian's people in Africa. Thank you for your generosity, it shows that we are willing to give to others of what God has given to us. Those across the ocean will not be sending a repayment check back - but that was never the idea - the rewards in terms of us helping God's will to be done, and in terms of our deeper relationship with God will be realized.

Thank to all who asked how my vacation was I prayed a Mass for all of you on a bureau in a hotel room on Wednesday morning. I am confident that we are growing more together as a community, and that through that more blessings will come. Our working together to reach our Partners in Charity goal (good job), our generosity to the good people in Tanzania, and all the fruits of the many ministries that we provide in the City of Gardner - all this shows that we can be a powerful force for good and to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who need to hear it.

This past week the Finance Council met and discussed our current financial situation (which is stable), looked at areas growth is needed, and we approved our budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year that begins September 1. We enter this fiscal year with a plan. A budget to guide us, and also specific targets of things that we need to work on. We will now total the last fiscal year out and prepare the year end report. We will be providing a copy of our financial report to all parishioners when this work is done. Your continued generosity, and your prayerful sharing in the collection of the resources that God has given you, will only help us to expand and take care of the many things needed to continue to fulfill our mission and grow as a vibrant faith community.

I have put special attention this week to continuing to move along the construction projects (the handicap access, and convent/parish center renovation). I am amazed with how many steps keep appearing in the process that have made this drag on so long. Rest assured I'll keep at it and we'll get there.

You have been hearing a bit about the parish picnic on September 15th. This proves to be a good time. There will be games, food, socializing, and musical entertainment. In addition, there will be Sunday Mass celebrated there (making it a great one-stop Sunday event). Please come along and bring friends and family. See the bulletin and website for more detailed information.

As we move on our journey together remember that the Lord is powerfully working in our midst. Take the time to deepen your relationship with the Lord, be more and more a part of our faith community, and help us to build it to a shining light for the city bringing the light and healing touch of Christ to all who encounter us.

God Bless,
Fr. Steve