

Dear parishioners;

It has been a little over a year since I arrived here at All Saints Parish as your pastor and since this year marks the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of All Saints Parish, I thought it would be the perfect time to tell you about what has been going on in our parish thus far. I believe that my role here is not only being the Shepherd of the Flock, but I have been entrusted to be a good steward of the parish. Change is hard but sometimes necessary and I hope I have your faith that the good of the parish is at the foremost of every decision I make whether it be restructuring, cost cutting, maintaining of our properties or parish life.

In our restructuring the position of a business manager was eliminated and replaced by one of our three secretaries. Our cemeteries are now under one superintendent instead of running as three separate entities. We put in place a new "office process/procedure" for more transparency, order and predictability in the way our office operates. We also replaced our music director and are in the process of reviving our youth program.

We cut costs this past year by putting all of our financial records on one Parish Data System; now all of our financial records from the past eight years to the present are computerized and balanced. By doing this, we were able to eliminate unnecessary spending and made sure that all bills and taxes are paid on time to avoid late fees. Thanks in part to those actions, we were able to come within 20,000 of balancing our budget for the 2017 fiscal year. (We were running a significant deficits during the last several years around -70,000 per year).

Our next task will be to upgrade our census in order to better understand the demographics and needs of our parish. The last census was done in 2006 (around the time of a merger of three former parishes into one).

In the area of maintaining our properties, we made sure all the buildings are safe and structurally sound. We installed fire extinguishers and smoke detectors where needed and made some needed repairs including the front porch of our office, a ceiling in the rectory and air conditioning units in the office and in the church buildings. We demolished the convent to make room for more parking spaces at our school building. We removed 4 small trees from the steeple of the church, made some repairs to our organs and entered into a maintenance agreement to keep it from falling into a deplorable condition. We removed some trees from our properties that were in danger of falling over or were "in the way." We also fixed the roof on the garage located next to the parish office and made some improvements in our cemeteries. A new road was paved at St. Mary's and we built a new building to provide for storage of our equipment at St. Vincent's. In the near future, we will begin the transition from paper to electronic record keeping in our cemeteries.

We also conducted a "clean up" day and filled two 30 cubic foot dumpsters with garbage/rubbish to make room for the things that are actually useful and needed for a proper functioning of our parish. We had 30 + parishioners helping in the event – Great.

While we must take care of our buildings, we must never forget about the people inside of them. With this in mind we replaced the sound system in our church, so that all/most of us can hear the Word of God during our sacramental celebrations. We also organized some activities to bring all of us together

in social, fundraising and liturgical events. We now have “Night at the Races,” Bingo and our Spaghetti Dinner all of which were a success due to the support of those of you who attended and those who helped to put them together. We have more events in the planning stages, some to help raise funds and some to bring us together as a parish family. For example, don’t miss the exciting 10th Anniversary Celebration planned for October 30th from 12PM- 2PM in our school building cafeteria.

Moreover, we have plans to organize a “Mardi Gras,” celebration and possibly another dinner or two.

In addition, we have added devotionals to our liturgical celebrations: Divine Mercy Sunday celebration, evening prayers during Advent and Lent, Novenas to St. Jude and to Sacred Heart of Jesus. And we are planning for some opportunities for Bible and Catechism study in the near future.

All of these will be on the top of many activities already happening in our parish.

As you may have noticed I have been saying “we.” Even though I was assigned here as Pastor, I would not have been able to accomplish anything without the hard work of our parishioners and office staff. The generous offering of your time and talent made all of this possible.

We have laid the foundation of the primary goal of our parish which is the evangelization and providing a secure and appropriate place for our sacramental and social celebrations and events.

I would like to invite all of you who may not have already, to get involved in our parish life. With your help, we will become an even more vibrant community blessed with many organizations and activities and one that will be home to stronger and more viable community of Jesus’ disciples. Come and join us in our mission to create a spiritual home where we can connect personally with each other and most importantly to grow in our relationship with God. There is a place for everyone here!

My message to all of you is one of gratitude. I ask for and appreciate your continued commitment to and support of our parish through your time, talent and treasure as your schedule allows.

With gratitude and in Christ’s peace

Father Jacek

Pastor.