

Pastor's Report
February 3-4, 2018
Father Steve Sallis

I. Context: Hearts on Fire

We are in the middle of year three of our parish pastoral plan Hearts on Fire. We have been accomplishing much of what we have set out to do with great success in some areas; some items were shifted to later dates due to special circumstances, e.g., an archdiocesan capital campaign. I want to share with you some recent developments that I feel the parish should know.

II. Sister Parish

Goal VI included an objective: *whether to have a Sister Parish relationship for Sacred Heart (and if affirmative begin implementation) by May 2018.*

Our Social Concerns Commission decided to move this objective forward and spent the last few months determining the criteria that our parish was looking for in a sister parish. The Social Concerns Commission presented their recommendation to the Pastoral Council at our meeting earlier this month. They recommended that our parish enter into a sister parish relationship with St. Francis Mission, a ministry composed of six parishes among the 26,000 Lakota (Sioux) people on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in south-central South Dakota (about two hours outside of Rapid City). After the presentation from the Social Concerns Commission, the Pastoral Council approved the recommendation.

Father James Kubicki, SJ, who is the current pastor of St. Francis Mission, will visit Sacred Heart March 16-18 and will conduct our Lenten Day of Reflection on Saturday, March 17. Father Kubicki was formerly the National Director of the Apostleship of Prayer; our retreat will focus on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. During his visit there will be opportunity for the parish to get to know him and St. Francis Mission and move our discussion about our sister parish relationship further along.

III. Feasibility Study for Parish Capital Campaign

Hearts on Fire, Goal VII is Sacred Heart will be good stewards of our human, financial and facility resources called for our parish to *conduct fund-raising feasibility study* by Fall of 2017. I set up an ad hoc Parish Master Plan Committee who gave advice on how to proceed on some of our capital projects and their impact on our parish. We decided to conduct a feasibility study to determine parish support for replacing the church roof and building a parish hall.

The feasibility showed there was great support for replacing our church roof, but less understanding about and support for the need of building a parish hall.

IV. Archdiocesan Capital Campaign

In the fall of 2017, while we were in the middle of our feasibility study, Archbishop Sartain announced the launch of the Archdiocesan campaign *Called to Serve as Christ-A Campaign for our Priests, Sisters & Family of Faith* (to strengthen our priest pension and retirement medical plans and provide support to women religious serving or who have served in the archdiocese) and set a goal of \$100 million. He also asked parishes and schools to suspend capital campaigns although parishes could ask for an exception for special circumstances.

Our parish was given permission to have a capital campaign to raise money for replacing the church roof—since our current church roof has only one more winter left before it begins to be greatly compromised—but not for building a parish hall.

V. Parish Capital Campaign

Our parish will conduct a Capital Campaign to replace our church roof and for the archdiocesan campaign. Our goal will be \$4 million—\$1.5 for the archdiocese and \$2.5 for a new church roof (including work on the interior ceiling and improved lighting). We will conduct the campaign over a 14-week timeline beginning in the late spring; the major parish wide phase would be in September/October 2018; pledges would be for a three year period.

We are in the process of putting together a campaign committee—including a “Pave the Way” team who will keep the issue of a need for a parish hall on our radar.

VI. 2018-2019 Parish Staff

Hearts on Fire Goal VII also has an objective to *continue to hire, retain and support an effective parish staff*. Change on a parish staff is inevitable, and once again our parish will experience some changes in 2018-2019.

My six-year term as pastor at Sacred Heart ends at the end of June this year. I have asked Archbishop Sartain to stay at Sacred Heart at this time to help with the capital campaign and other parish projects. We will hear sometime this spring about whether or not I will stay.

Deacon Scott Pickett is in the process of being assigned here at our parish. He was ordained a deacon for the diocese of Tucson; his family moved here in August so that his wife Nicole could become the assistant principal in our parish school. Deacon Scott is currently a theology teacher at Eastside Catholic School which he will continue to do. He will be at Sacred Heart primarily on Sundays.

Carol Guenther, Pastoral Associate, will leave Sacred Heart at the end of June. Her husband is retiring from teaching in the Puyallup school district where they live at the end of the school year. They decided that Carol giving up her position here would be best for their family.

There will be additional changes to be announced in the next few weeks, e.g., a new pastoral associate (we have begun the process of searching for a new Pastoral Associate to begin in July).

VII. Moving Forward

I am confident that we are moving forward in a positive direction; there are many indicators of this: financial stability; accomplishments in Hearts on Fire; a dedicated and committed parish staff; and many parishioners who are generous in sharing time, treasure, and talent. Let us continue to pray for our parish and by working together accomplish great things as we move together into the future.