

First Interim Report to The Pastor and St. Mary of the Springs Parish

on the Implementation of the Parish SYNOD Study

Listed below are some of the accomplishments of the Committee and sub-committees since the completion of the SYNOD Study:

- 1) Revamped the 6 Commissions that make up the Pastoral Council of the Parish. This was done to clarify the job description of each Commission, include all the identified activities of the Parish, more accurately reflect the guidelines from the DOLR, and increase accountability of each of the Commissions. Each Commission now has guiding Scriptures, a job description, stated purpose, clearer responsibilities, and delineated membership. It is hoped that anyone considering running for the Pastoral Council will be able to review the descriptions before their possible election.
- 2) Formed a Communications Team to help determine better ways to communicate with the Parish and the larger community. Several volunteers have stepped forward to help with the Parish live-streaming efforts.
- 3) In the Process of creating a new website
- 4) Revising the Church bulletin
- 5) Began instituting major changes in the Youth Ministry Program with increased parental representation. More interactive youth activities separate from the education programs. We hope to increase the visibility of youth in the Church. Current plan is to hire a F/T Youth Minister, who would work with both St. Mary's and St. John the Baptist.

- 6) The Parish has begun providing increased Liturgical Services to a local nursing home and plan to expand to additional facilities.
- 7) In response to concerns raised regarding the diocesan annulment process, we have been informed the DOLR has added an additional priest to serve F/T in the Tribunal in Little Rock.
- 8) The Parish is expanding work with the Spanish members of St. Mary's.
- 9) The Social Justice and Charitable Outreach Commission is doing a comprehensive review of all the charitable activities of the Parish and community. The leadership is hoping to provide better accountability to the community for all charitable activities. It also plans to provide information that will help those who wish to support various charitable activities—with their time, talent, and/or treasure. This information can be used to wisely choose activities one wishes to support.
- 10) We are working to update the Parish rolls ahead of the creation of a new parish pictorial directory in the fall of 2022.

May 26, 2022