

Jesus' story of the two sons in the Gospel lets us know that what God is really interested in is our response. This is similar to the theme that we have been hearing in the past few weeks. What God wants is for us to respond - words don't mean anything unless they are backed by action. We continue to work to build a community structure that can support future growth and future opportunities for saying yes to the Lord (or even more important than saying yes - doing yes). The power of the Lord then begins to work through us, and amazing things can happen. They may not look amazing to us at first, but the result of these efforts in future years is what we should be working for.

I explained last time about the painful decision to close the Caring Place. I have heard of some people having some confusion. Let me be clear, the decision to close was not in order to benefit Holy Family Academy, or to just get the money for the sale of a property. I would rather that the Caring Place had continued and I wanted to turn some of my attention there in the future. The decision was based upon a long series of discussions about the viability of the program given the current situations we are in. It was not a hasty or inflexible decision. Jane and I even talked about reversing the decision if a rebound in enrollment occurred - unfortunately it did not. I would be happy to discuss any of the details with whoever would like to speak to me. I would prefer that we discuss this openly than to have rumors float around that might not be true and which can cause harm to our parish unity. I will make myself available for any type of meeting people would request.

The closure of the Caring Place will most likely lead to the sale of the building in which it is housed. Without the program operating we would incur a five-figure yearly expense for insurances and basic building upkeep. We have no other use planned for the building, and if we are not using it, then it will go back on the tax rolls generating more bills. Despite the clarification I had made during the sale of Sacred Heart and St. Joseph, some people seem to think that the money will go to the Diocese. This is not the case. The building belongs to the parish, and the funds from a sale, if any, remains with us. If anyone has any creative ideas, please bring them up - I will bring these to Pastoral and Finance Councils. You may also contact any Pastoral Council member to express your concerns or ideas. You can find names and contact information on the website or by calling the office for that information.

We met to interview the final candidates for the principal position at Holy Family Academy. An official announcement will be out soon. Thanks to the work of the search committee headed by Leonette Roy for their great work in this. Getting the best individual into this role has been a priority, and will be needed to build on the good work of Mrs. Tavaska and bring us to the next level. We also met to discuss how the Bazaar will look this year - planning is underway. Although it will be different in terms of format and time frame it is going to go on. Look for more details.

We had a successful drive-in movie night last Saturday. A number of families with their children came and everyone seemed to be having a great time. We are looking forward to doing this more, and also looking to next year. Equipment upgrades will make the screen more visible, and we plan to offer inspirational movies for adults as well as family friendly movies. Thanks to all who helped make this a reality.

God Bless,

Fr. Steve