

A Pastor's Perspective

April 25, 2021 Bulletin



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

This week's column is devoted to sharing some exciting news about two of our parish properties. In recent months, St. Paul the Apostle Parish has been discussing how it can use its properties more effectively and efficiently, while collaborating with two other Catholic organizations: St. Michael Center and Catholic Charities Maine (CCM).

St. Michael Center, which has a long, rich, and ever-evolving history of service to the greater Bangor area, is a not-for-profit organization that supports various ministries and other forms of outreach in the Catholic tradition. In recent years, St. Michael Center has dedicated its resources to supporting the work of CCM in this part of the state/diocese. For example, St. Michael Center houses the CCM staff at its current facility on Kenduskeag Avenue. However, that facility is outdated and in need of significant repair or replacement.

Both St. Teresa's and St. Joseph's in Brewer have beautiful buildings that include spacious halls (with kitchens) and flexible work areas that can serve as either classrooms or offices. However, both buildings are currently underutilized. After discussing how to better use these facilities with our parish's Pastoral and Finance Councils, it has been agreed that:

- St. Paul the Apostle Parish will move all of our catechetical staff and operations to a single location (from the St. Teresa facility to the St. Joseph facility).
- After that is done, we will rent the St. Teresa facility to St. Michael Center, which will be used to continue supporting the good works of Catholic Charities Maine (CCM). Thanks to St. Michael Center, this new location will grant CCM greater visibility in our communities and I provide them with a base from which they can expand their outreach to the poor, the elderly and others who are in need, all in keeping with Gospel values.
- St. Paul the Apostle Parish will continue to have access to the hall at the St. Teresa facility for parish functions and receptions as needed.
- The classrooms at the St. Joseph facility have been given a fresh coat of paint (thanks to the Knights of Columbus), and we will be making a few other upgrades and improvements to ensure that our faith formation staff and programs will have a home from which they can continue to fulfill the vital ministry of sharing the faith with our children, teens, and adults. The Knights of Columbus will also take up residence at the St. Joseph facility.

As we move forward with these projects, it is my intention to provide you with additional updates. We hope that these initiatives will create yet another way by which St. Paul the Apostle Parish, St. Michael Center, and Catholic Charities Maine can share our Catholic faith with others, that is, doing the work of evangelization that is "new in its ardor, its methods, and its expression" (*St. John Paul II*).

Peace and blessings,

Msgr. Andrew