

## **Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Community Covenant Service Board Minutes Summary – September 21, 2023**

Present: Fr. Mike, Mike Harper, Chris Johnson, Janet Selke, Lynn Robinson [who provided excellent refreshments]. Absent: Carlton Leslie, Charlene Cameron, Dan Dusseau.

After 7 p.m. the opening prayer led by Mike Harper, Father Mike shared information about several upcoming events. **Father Marc Donald**, the pastor of our sister parish in Haiti, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, will be visiting our community in early October. Father will be here to meet and speak to our community and hopefully get some rest while he spends time with us. After his departure, our community will welcome a **Missionary Sister** for a weekend in October. She is being sent at the request of the Office of Missions of the Archdiocese to share her experience as a missionary and there will be a special collection at all weekend Masses.

**Thanksgiving** takes place on Thursday, November 23, 2023. In anticipation of a Mass on Thanksgiving Day, Father asked the members for a suggested time for the Mass. It was unanimously recommended that the time for our Mass be offered at 9 a.m. The Mass will take place in the church.

For many years, our community has been strong supporters of the **Ladies of Charity Food Pantry in North Beach**. The Ladies of Charity [LOC] do tremendous ministry in providing food and other kinds of social outreach to the hungry and needy of the northern part of Calvert County. The LOC is undertaking a campaign to construct a new \$1.5 million food pantry building to replace the present aging pantry. The LOC hopes to conduct this campaign at the nearby parishes including JGS to raise needed funds to make their dream become a reality. When the LOC plans are finalized for the parish campaign, our community will be invited to participate.

The **Centre Kitchen Renovation Committee** has continued to meet to draw up plans. They have made great in-roads, the last meeting being August 31; the next meeting is October 3, at which a final review of the plans will be finalized. A search for a general contractor is presently being undertaken. Fr. Mike shared that at least \$200,000 from parish savings was agreed upon at the previous Stewardship/Finance Council meeting to contribute to this project.

The renovation of the kitchen will be a substantial undertaking, being that the kitchen is a *commercial* and not a residential kitchen. Since the opening of the kitchen almost 40 years ago, many building and health codes have come into play. As a result, the kitchen must be in compliance with County health and building requirements. A preliminary proposal for new kitchen equipment is approximately \$360,000.

There will be additional costs for other details such as plumbing, electrical, floor and ceiling work. The funds for these costs will be raised through a parish campaign. More details will be shared with our community once they become finalized. Once things are in place, a joint

meeting among the Covenant Service Board, the Stewardship/Finance Council and the Centre Kitchen Renovation Committee will be called before an eventual public presentation to our community. Information has already been shared with these groups and there is much support and excitement for this project.

Last but not least, Father shared some thoughts about the national **Eucharist Revival**. The Eucharist Revival is a pastoral plan of the U.S. Bishops. The purpose of the revival is two-fold: to further educate Catholics about the Mass and the meaning of the Eucharist in our spiritual lives as Catholics and to promote our overall devotion to the Holy Eucharist. The Eucharistic Revival ends next June with a *National Eucharistic Congress* in Indianapolis taking place over several days. The Congress will end with a huge Mass at the sports stadium with 80,000 participants. Father hopes to participate himself and also hopes there will be a good representation from our community to attend the Eucharistic Congress with him.

The board meeting ended with a prayer led by Fr. Mike at 8 p.m.