

## **Corpus Christi Comments by Ron Russell on June 12-13, 2010**

**As I did last year, I will be providing incremental updates during Fr. Richard's sabbatical. I spoke with him recently and he is doing ministry work already along with his reading of books. He sends his blessings to everyone.**

**It was clearly evident at our May 14<sup>th</sup> Parish Celebration that you have made this Corpus Christi campus what it is today...we would not be where we are today as a parish, without your dedication, your commitment and financial support...for this we owe ourselves a debt of gratitude. As good as the food was, as good as the entertainment was and as good as the drinks were...the centerpiece of the evening was the atmosphere of relationships & conversation in our completed plaza! There is a lot of personal pride by being members of Corpus Christi and it was very evident that night. You are what makes Corpus Christi the "church"...the Body of Christ. With being part of our parish, also goes a responsibility and an accountability.**

**With that said...at our Feb. town hall meeting, we showed financial data that perhaps you saw for the first time, and some of that financial data showed that our donations, across our total parishioner base, have not kept up with the expenses of our new sanctuary & plaza, and our monthly bank loan payment. Our operational expenses exceed our donations also and as we stated at our Town Hall, we have to tap into our Diocesan Capital Campaign rebate money to cover those expenses. At that time, we asked all families to go home and talk about, pray about the financial support we provide to Corpus Christi. We have seen a modest increase in donations in this area.**

**Other parishes across the Diocese are experiencing financial challenges similar to Corpus Christi.**

**Some are under the premise that with the construction completed, it is all paid for! Unfortunately this is not true.**

**In the bulletin starting this weekend, we will continually show our Building Debt and our donations towards that monthly payment...our Bldg. Debt is approx. \$3.6 Million dollars and we will show our monthly donations from the Bldg. Fund, Our Capital Campaign pledges and profit from Scrip Sales. If we have a shortfall to our monthly loan payment, it will have to be taken from our reserves. Perhaps not unlike some have to do today, with the present economic environment, to tap in one's savings to make ends meet. We believe we can manage this present situation.**

**Hopefully, you all understand some of the measures we are doing to transition our parish during these challenging times. As you would expect, there are 2 area of focus...Income & Expenses!**

**We have established a team to identify opportunities to reduce our operational expenses...some have already taken place.**

- We have frozen all staff salaries**
- There is a moratorium on any new travel outside of Arizona...such as attending conferences**
- We are looking at more competitive purchasing of some supply materials for lower cost**
- We are looking at re-wiring our lights in the Hall & Church as there are too many on at night...still preserving our safety & security, we are already reducing the lights that are on in the evening. And low voltage lights were installed in the plaza.**
- We are relooking at all of our budget items for additional cost cutting measures**
- Income...we are looking at renting out our Parish Hall, Plaza & Kitchen for some potential income. Other areas are being discussed for possible additional income.**

**Rest assured today, Corpus Christi is financially solvent...these actions are taking place now proactively before we get into a tougher financial situation...it is better to act now to mitigate some future financial challenges.**

**A number of people have spoken to me since our Feb. Town Hall, noting that we did not specify any financial amount for people to consider for their donations, have asked for some ideas or thoughts on this.**

**We know economic times are tough...only you know your financial situation so this is merely a suggestion for consideration...if all of our registered parishioners donated 25 cents a day/ a quarter...above & beyond what they are donating today...that is \$7.50 /month, we could possibly realize \$86,000 a year. That clearly could cover our shortfall for operational expenses with some left over!**

**If any of you could manage that, we would be very grateful...if you cannot financially manage that, we could definitely use your donation of your time through your Gifts & Talents...to avoid some costs, we could use help cleaning the Rectory each month; help with the maintaining our church campus for some maintenance items; a family or group of families could consider “sponsoring our Liturgical flowers” during the liturgical seasons to reduce our expenditures. We will be placing some areas of volunteer & cost reduction opportunities in our bulletin for your consideration.**

**Scrip, now to be known more accurately as Gift Cards...brings us annually around \$25,000 a year...net profit as no additional cost to you. We get an average of 5% back on every dollar...our local supermarkets do the 4-5% range and we all have to eat...some such as LeBuzz at Catalina Hwy/Tanque Verde...a good place for BFast-Lunch-Dinner give us 20% on the dollar...one of our Highest!! So**

**we ask that you really look at Gift Cards as a way of “donating to our Bldg.Fund” at no additional costs...avail. in the office during the week/ sales after w/end Mass and a Mail program. Stop by the Gift Card (Scrip) table if have questions about these items.**

**Corpus Christi is also now taking credit cards for donations; there is a form in the bulletin. Now you can earn miles for your donation and Gift cards (Scrip) can now be purchased using credit cards at the parish office during the week. See the Parish office staff for more details.**

**All in all...we are truly the Church we speak of...we are family...we are who we are...the Body of Christ! Your support is needed and now, as in the past, Corpus Christi parishioners are being asked to step forward to meet our challenges.**

**Thank You!**

**Ron Russell  
June 2010**