



## Holy Mother and Child Parish

Your PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM (PLT) wishes to thank you for your participation on the various topics discussed at the parish-wide meeting held after masses on the weekend of May 22 – 23, 2021. Here is a brief summary of what was shared:

**Our goal was to discuss the future of our parish as we face:**

- a decrease in attendance,
- an increase in debt, and *most importantly*
- how to best fulfill our Mission of bringing the Good News and the Face of God to everyone we encounter.

**The following main topics were discussed:**

- **Will we have a priest assigned to HMCP?**
  - Yes, we will have a pastor to shepherd us, but he will not be in-residence and may be part of a pastoral network of priests serving our parish. In the Albany Diocese there are 126 parishes with 67 active priests and 37 retired priests. Our Bishop has guaranteed that every parish will have at least one mass celebrated each weekend.
  - Also, 37 seminarians are preparing for the priesthood and 3 gentlemen preparing for the diaconate.
- **Will our church in Lake Luzerne be open for the summer?**
  - We are working on offering a Sunday mass at 11AM from July 4<sup>th</sup> to Sept 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - Opening the church at Lake Luzerne would help increase income temporarily and would offset some expenses of opening the building for the 10 Sunday timeframe.
- **What fund raising ideas can be implemented?**
  - Amazon rebate to a charity.
  - PayPal usage to include a \$1 to a charity.
  - Parish Recipe Cookbook – sale.
  - Can we rent Lake Luzerne properties; like an Airbnb? – no, it would affect our not-for-profit status.

- **What fund raising ideas can be implemented? (*continued*)**
  - Can we sell the rectory and keep the church? – possibly, but the church’s expenses are the most challenging, plus owning a residence that sits between a church and the church’s parking lot is undesirable to a buyer.
- **How can we decrease our debt?**
  - The sale of the Lake Luzerne properties.
  - Money received from the sale will remain with HMCP; but we will need to pay any outstanding debt.
- **How much did the pandemic affect our indebtedness?**
  - Prior to the pandemic our collection income supported an allocation to pay down our debt; since the pandemic our collection income has been reduced and needed to pay for our normal operating and maintenance expenses.
- **Can we learn from what other parishes and dioceses are doing?**
  - For years, our diocese has and will continue to study best practices learned from other parishes and dioceses.
  - All parishes and dioceses are unique; all have different physical footprints and interior layouts that determine seating in compliance with COVID-restrictions.
  - We will certainly look into how other parishes are handling restrictions and welcoming back parishioners.
- **How can we accommodate all our parishioners with our Bishop reinstating the obligation to attend mass?**
  - Corinth Church proper seats approximately 360 with no Covid restrictions.
  - Corinth Parish Center seats approximately 160 with no Covid restrictions.
  - Lake Luzerne seats approximately 180 with no Covid restrictions.
  - This Memorial Day weekend we are lifting **some** restrictions and we anticipate more will be lifted through-out the summer months to accommodate more seating.

**Some parishioners expressed the following sentiments:**

- Wish the Bishop would do more in finding us a priest!
- Enough is enough – let’s sell Lake Luzerne!
- It seems that other churches are more lenient COVID-wise than we have been!
- A strong desire to maintain the character of the property – for religious or cultural purposes versus a convenience store – thus placing a contingency on the sale to promote such usage.

Your PLT is grateful for your input and your prayers as we strive to prayerfully discern and carry out God’s plan for our parish!

Feeling grateful,

Your Parish Leadership Team

Dcn. Gary Picher, Joan Scott, Christine Morreale, Pam Thomas, Carol Pacco-Long