

“State of the Parish” #2

Santa Maria del Mar

December 5th & 6th, 2020



I.) INTRODUCTION:

I arrived at SMdM as Pastor July 3rd, 2019, 16 months ago. We had the 1st 'State of the Parish' on the 1st week-end of March 2020. Shortly after that, we began our present COVID 19 Emergency. With the closings of parishes and offices through the Diocese, we immediately started transmitting masses, and answering remotely (digitally, phones, web-page) the pastoral needs of our people to the best of our ability, with just a handful of us, with our main focus of response always being pastoral.

Financially, we lost approx. 40% of our collections, while many of our expenses remained the same. It was a combination of extra donations from many of you and fiscal tightening that allowed us to keep ourselves, barely at times, *“above the water”*.

This last month (November), was the 1st month that our collections were greater than our expenses.



II.) WHAT HAVE WE DONE & WHERE ARE WE MOVING TO?

Greater transparency, oversight, financial/fiscal responsibility & accountability:

A.) Parish Share Program – Same cost as we were paying an outside accounting firm to do – we have a professional accountant at the Diocese – It provides us with an added extra layer of accountability, no more paying for Parish audits, since the Diocese has all the financial numbers from the Parish (last 3 ½ years, SMdM Parish paid over \$22,000 for 3 audits.)

(DOSAFI Audit Policy: Every 5 years or after every change of Pastor.)

B.) At our Parish level, not just one person, the Administrator, having “eyes on” on everything financial, but now three persons having “eyes on”: The Chair of the Financial Council, Mr. Toney Altieri, Ms. Cindy Ser, also of the Financial Council, and our Administrator, Ms. Christine Sudano, thru them, they brief the Financial Council, and the Pastor.

ADDITIONAL STEPS TAKEN:

- a.) Cut Parish Budget By Half for 2020-2021;
- b.) Refinanced Debt, saving us thousands of dollars;
- c.) Froze hiring & reorganized/re-distribute office duties and responsibilities (Saving \$60,000/yr.)
- d.) Re-examining all contracts & services with outside providers – What is best for our parish.





HOW ARE DONATIONS (FUNDS) UTILIZED?

A.) COLLECTIONS – Goes to the General Fund to pay for Parish expenses.

B.) 'PARTICULAR DONATIONS' FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS – The person(s) donate for particular projects or things they their donations to go to (Example, the second Church A/C recently.) By Canon Law, those funds can only be used/utilized for those specific projects for the Parish, unless the donor(s) give permission to be used for something else.

SPECIFIC DONATIONS FOR 'PARTICULAR PROJECTS':

(This last year – Specific donations/funds were used for the following 'Particular projects' as specified by the donors):

- Eucharistic Adoration Chapel: Tabernacle \$5,600, Monstrance \$1,600, base:\$500; **DONE.**
- LED Lights \$8,000 (\$1,000 & \$7,000); **DONE.**
- Church Large Custom made Banners on walls 2 Green \$1,600, 2 White \$1800 **DONE.**
- Storm/Hurricane Panels for outside stained glass windows **ORDERED.**
- \$20,000 towards Loan repayment; **DONE**
- Office window treatments/blinds **DONE.**
- Main water main control replaced; **DONE.**
- 2nd Church 40 ton A/C. **DONE.**
- Bread of Life Parish Ministry (feeding area individuals) \$1,000 & \$2,500 **DONATIONS.**



OTHER PENDING PARTICULAR PROJECTS:

(We have permission/donations/funds for the following 'particular projects'):

- Fire Alarm Main Panel (Not working for over four (4) years (\$9,500) **ORDERED**
 - 3 sets of Outside doors (Equipment-A/C-storage rooms) rotted/rusted/damaged \$7500
 - Two broken smaller A/C Units:
 - * 1st Floor of the Rectory (broken since April \$5,600). **ORDERED**
 - * Hall Kitchen/Bathrooms (\$6,200). **ORDERED**
 - Hall Kitchen Fire Suppression System (From 1990, does not meet present Code) (\$2,600) **ORDERED**
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FUTURE PLANS, GOALS & CHALLENGES:

A/C/Major Repairs Fund – Re-establishing fund to deal with physical needs proactively;

Sustainment Fund (five to ten year process);

Other Challenges– This close to the water, chronic problems with A/C's and all metal surfaces.



STATE OF THE DEBT:

- Originally, over 2.3 million.
- My start of tenure as your Pastor July 3rd, 2019 – Debt was \$237,000.
- 1st 'State of the Parish' week-end of March 7th & 8th 2020 – Debt was \$217,000.
- AT PRESENT (Week-end of December 5th & 6th) – **DEBT NOW AT \$147,077.**

We would like to, once again, express our gratitude for the generosity of all of our parishioners and of your role in maintaining the vitality of our parish during this difficult times. Thank you and may God continue to bless us all!!!

TOGETHER, WE ARE MOVING FORWARD AS A LOVING COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Any additional questions you have, please contact us and we will happily answer them.

