

Dear Beloved parishioners, family, and friends of St. Joseph the Worker. I pray everyone is well and wish you the strength of these days of Easter and Pentecost. There are several important updates that inspired me to write this letter to you as we enter ordinary time.

First, I want to discuss our annual auction and stewardship event in April. This event was a huge success and a testimony to your dedication to our parish family. I am immensely grateful to the organizers and all those who donated time, talent, and treasure. May the Lord bless and replenish you a hundredfold. **“We are the World; We are the people of God.”**

Second, I want to discuss the budget. Your continued generosity has allowed us to meet all our needs and continue to maintain and improve our facilities. As we approach the end of our fiscal year, the Finance Council is preparing our next year’s budget. More on this in our annual report routinely published in September.

Third, I want to discuss youth ministry in our church. As you are aware, we are guided in this important work through our youth director, Molly Pereda, who is deeply committed to the spiritual growth and direction of our children. We are offering the following programs this summer to our youth:

Sunday, June 4th: High School Costco Outing, 3:00-4:30 p.m.
(Catholic Youth Ministry Training in Arizona, June 10th-15th)
(Middle School Camp in Georgia, June 19th-24th)
Weekly Bible Study at Blessed Sacrament:
8th Grade-High School Service Retreat
Middle School Bowling/Laser Tag Night at Stars & Strikes
Movie Night with Faith Formation
(High School Camp in Georgia, July 17th-22nd)
Middle/High School Nerf War:
Middle/High School Movie Night with Blessed Sacrament

Lastly, I want to discuss the use of our Family Life Center. This Center is an asset of our parish family. These facilities have been provided through God’s benevolence and by the sacrificial generosity of parish members and other Catholics. Thus, the primary purpose of parish facilities is for use by the parish and other Church entities.

In the past, the Athletic Association of St. Joseph’s has used our facilities for summer camp and other events. Initially, their use was as an affiliated group of the parish. At some point, the association determined to form a tax-exempt association, separate and apart from the parish or any other Catholic organization. I have spoken to the association about the positive impact the association has had on our parish, our community, and our youth. Based on their broad use of the Parish facilities, I have also discussed with them the importance of incorporating daily prayers into their program for the ministry of the participating youth and of becoming an affiliated program of the parish. In recent years, their activities and use of the parish facility became completely unaffiliated.

Currently, the association has not contacted the parish about becoming an affiliated organization and, it is my understanding that the association is offering their program at a new location this summer. This determination, while a change in activities located at our parish, allows the association to operate programs in the manner that they determine is best for their participants. We wish them the very best in their new location.

Please be assured that our Parish Center will continue to serve the many parish needs including youth ministry, religious education, fellowship events, stewardship activities, home schooling, bereavement support, and sports activities, among others. It is my intent that this asset continues to serve our family and community for all who can benefit.

The parish pastoral council and I remain fully committed to the youth of our parish in their development and spiritual growth of all our members. We will continue to be guided through the work of our youth director.

Please kindly pray with me that our young people take up ministries and serve in our faith community.

Yours in Christ,

Father Patrick
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