

Summary of Archbishop Schnurr's response to St. John Viability Proposal

Dated 3/24/20

Last fall, members from the Archdiocese staff contacted St John concerning our debt. This communication stated that by January 1, 2020, the parish was to have in place a plan to 1) pay expenses promptly and 2) pay down the debt.

Late last year, the parish did submit a plan which basically said that it would strive to increase revenue, decrease expenses, and sell off some of the real estate belonging to the parish. Since that time, Archdiocesan staff members have been working with the pastor, parish council and parish finance council to give greater specificity to the plan.

To assist the parish, Bishop Joe Binzer will serve as a mediator. He will attend meetings of the parish councils when the aforementioned issues are on the agenda. Bishop Binzer will summarize the issues for the benefit of the Archbishop and will make his recommendation. Archbishop Schnurr will then make a decision.

The plan to pay down debt and keep payment of expenses current must be developed and acted on in a timely manner. The parish councils have recommended a timeline of six months, which seems to be a reasonable timeframe. The parish councils have also said that, if such a plan is not successfully "up and running" within six months, they will conclude that the parish is not financially viable. In such an instance, the parish would have to close.

Bishop Binzer will not only serve as mediator as the plan is being finalized, he will also monitor the work of the parish to determine whether the plan is being fully implemented and whether, over the six month period, the fully implemented plan does indeed seem to be resolving the financial challenges of the parish. In making this assessment, Bishop Binzer will be assisted by members of the Archdiocesan finance office and the Archdiocesan office for pastoral vitality and mission.

St John has come presented a plan to address the above issues which the Archdiocese has approved. We are now in the process of implementing this plan. With your help and prayers, this will ensure our parish viability for years to come. God Bless us all.

Kathy Bunker, Pastoral Council

More information to follow

