

From the Pastor's Desk

January 2023

As many may be aware, the Diocese of Peoria is undergoing a Pastoral Plan called 'Growing Disciples.' The process began many months ago as the Diocese is examining the current structure of parishes and schools to evaluate how they can best form authentic and strong discipleship and the vibrancy of parishes. I encourage everyone to stay informed.

There is a lot of information on the Diocesan website: cdop.org and the website CDOP.org/pastoral-plan. One can learn more about Growing Disciples, including the need for the pastoral planning process.

As we have entered the second half of our fiscal year, Dec. 31 was the 6 month mark, we continue to meet all of our ordinary expenses and maintain our respective properties. At St. Maria Goretti the ADA goal has been surpassed in pledges, at Mary Our Lady of Peace the struggle to meet our goal continues as we are very short of reaching our goal of \$29,852.00 while \$18,735.00 has been pledged as of January 6, 2023. Thanks for your generosity and the sharing of one's talent, treasure and time.

Reflecting on Christmas, the celebrations went very well. A lot of hands went into making our celebration of the Nativity of the Lord a wonderful experience and thanks to all. It was much appreciated.

In looking ahead, Ash Wednesday will soon be upon as the Lent begins on Wednesday Feb. 22, 2023. Mass times for Ash Wednesday-SMG 9:00am, MOLOP 5:30, followed by our soup supper. Lent will be here before you know it.

I hope everyone's New Year is off to a great start and 2023 is filled with God's finest blessings and good health.

Keep warm and well-fed,

Fr. Tony