

My dear people of St. Michael the Archangel Parish,

I want to wish each and everyone a very Happy New Year and hope you had a Merry and Blessed Christmas.

I would like to thank all of our volunteers for their generosity in giving of themselves to help the parish in the many areas they help. I could not do it without you. May God bless your dedication.

I want to thank everyone for their prayers for me, the many Christmas cards sent, and the many presents at Christmas and throughout the year. It is always humbling for me to have so many remember me. May God bless you for your generosity and kindness.

I would like to apologize if I have hurt anyone of you with my words or actions. It was not, nor ever will be, my intent to hurt anyone.

This past November 11<sup>th</sup> was my 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of founding and being here at St. Michaels. I can't believe how much has been accomplished and how fast the time has gone.

January 18<sup>th</sup> will be my 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination to the priesthood at the age of 38. Now talk about time moving quickly. I have been assigned to three parishes and in each had to raise money, renovate or build buildings. I hope, if I get to retire, the only building I will do is, maybe, with Legos.

As many of you may remember, we contracted with a realtor to try and sell 9 acres of the back property to help with debt payment after the deal with Foxworth – Galbraith (FG) fell through. The contract ends the end of February and we will not be renewing it as there has been absolutely no interest in the property.

Currently, the three Donohue brothers own the acreage north of us. After FG fell through, they were going to build a storage facility on the property. Sorrowfully, one of the brothers died. So, Peter, brought out his remaining brother and is now going to open a boat – RV storage facility. Also, next to Christ the Victor, an auto shop will be built sharing the same driveway as Christ the Victor. The realtor doesn't think the owner needs all 5 acres for the auto business, so maybe he will bring in other commercial businesses. Having spoken with a representative of the owners along AZ Farms, all want the property to be commercial and have restaurants, gas station, etc. be built there.

I am currently working with the Property Manager for the Diocese to help me obtain a rendering of what our church building would look like. There are two parishes building church buildings in the Diocese. One has decided on a television studio model (in the round) and we are waiting to see about the other parish. If they choose a traditional style of building, we will piggy back on them. If we accrue any cost, it will be minimal. I hope to work with the architects in the future to plan a parish layout. This will enable us to know where any new building will take place and where we can expand the parking lots.

I thank all of you again for your generosity. May 2024 be a more healthy and prosperous year than 2023 was.

God bless you all!



Fr. Branson, pastor