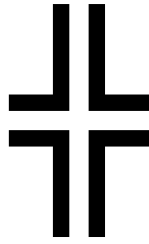


**ST. CLEMENT MARY HOFBAUER
PARISH**

ROSEDALE, MARYLAND

**Report of the Parish Visitation
of
Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Vicar, Eastern Vicariate**



Report of the Pastoral Visit
of
Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
to
The Parish of
St. Clement Mary Hofbauer
Rosedale, Maryland

September 5, 2007

The Mission of St. Clement Mary Hofbauer Parish Community

We, the Church of St. Clement Mary Hofbauer, in the Rosedale neighborhood of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, are messengers of the Word of God.

Through our celebration of the Eucharist an public prayer, we live out the faith that has been entrusted to use. That faith calls us to build up the Body of Christ present in our neighborhood

HISTORY

In the late 1800's it was estimated that about 400 Catholics lived in the area known as Rosedale. Two options for mass existed for these "farm" Catholics— Sacred Heart of Jesus in Highlandtown and St. Anthony on Frankford Avenue. Religious education classes were offered in the area but no church served this community of mostly German and Bohemian descent. However, by the 1920's people began to strategize on ways to build a church in the area to serve a growing community of Catholics. In 1923 a large fundraising effort kicked off a series of dinners, lunches, card parties, oyster suppers and pledge drives to raise the necessary funds to build a church. In 1924, three acres of land was acquired between Old Philadelphia Road and Pulaski Highway and by November of that same year the foundation was laid for a church building. The building was completed one year later at a cost of \$26,000. The church was designated as a mission of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish and given the title of St. Clement Mary Hofbauer. Father Philip Holtman, a Redemptorist from Sacred Heart served the mission as its priest.

Over the next several years the fledgling parish incurred debt so that by 1933 when Father Joseph Curran arrived he was greeted with a \$30,000 debt with interest due that very day! Father Curran occupied a bedroom in the church attic and an office in the basement. Father Curran remained pastor until 1961. The community was given parish status by 1939 and a rectory was built that same year. The 1940's saw the establishment of many parish organizations as well as St. Clement School under the guidance of The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis.

Over the years a series of pastors served the community of St. Clement's—Rev. John Hart, Rev. William Dumps, Rev. Herbert Jordan, Rev. Raymond Zorbach. Many religious and priestly vocations came from the parish during the 50's and 60's.

Upon the sudden death of Father Raymond Zorbach in 1994, the parish was placed under the administration and guidance of the Conventual Franciscan Friars. Father Richard Florek, OFM Conv., was named the first Franciscan pastor in 1994. The Franciscan Friars have served the parish since that time. Today, the parish is thriving under the leadership of Father Donald Grzymiski, OFM Conv., Pastor and Father Tom Walsh, OFM Conv., Associate Pastor. Father Berard Dudek, OFM Conv., is in residence at the Friary and is a gentle priestly presence in the parish.

The parish community welcomed the Franciscans and considers their administration and pastoral care of the parish a great blessing to the entire faith community.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

The parish of St. Clement Mary Hofbauer is located in the Rosedale area of East Baltimore County. The parish is bounded on the north by St. Michael's and St. Joseph's; on the northwest by Annunciation; on the east by St. Clare; on the west by Most Precious Blood and on the south by Our Lady of Fatima.

Currently, there are approximately 1300 registered families in the parish. Approximately 840 registered families live within the boundaries of the parish. Another 600 registered families live outside the boundaries of the parish. Conversely, approximately 450 families living within the boundaries are registered elsewhere—the majority of which are registered at St. Joseph, Fullerton. The largest group of registered parishioners is in the 40 to 59 age range. There are six masses offered each weekend with an average attendance of about 179. This represents a gradual decline in mass attendance over the past five years. However, the offertory has continued to increase over the past three years as operating expense have declined.

The majority of parishioners are Caucasian. Asian/Pacific Islanders, African Americans and Hispanics are also represented in the faith community.

The last U.S. Census taken in the year 2000 indicated a population of 12,312 persons living within the parish boundaries. This represented a 6% growth over the previous census in 1990. Currently, the greatest growth area is in the portion of the parish north of Golden Ring Road, with an increase of between 10% and 20%. There has been some small population gain (5% to 9%) in the southeast-southwest portion of the parish. There has been a 5% to 10% loss of population in the central and western portion of the parish south of Golden Ring Road.

INTRODUCTION

As Vicar Bishop of the Eastern Vicariate, I take seriously my responsibility to visit the parishes within the Vicariate. I value the opportunity to spend a day in the parish listening and learning about the hopes and concerns of parishioners. I am keenly aware of the goodness of so many committed individuals who are working daily to carry out the mission of Jesus. The persons who are attended as a result of the wonderful ministries going on are a testament to the faith and devotion of both staff and parishioners. Spending 12 to 14 hours in a parish provides me with a good “snapshot” of the life of the community and offers me a firsthand glance at the good work carried out so diligently and humbly.

I thank you for your welcoming hospitality extended to me and to my pastoral team throughout the visit. Your warmth and your pride in your parish were obvious.

COMMENDATIONS

In this report, I hope to offer you support, encouragement and direction as you move into the future as a faith community.

1. I wish to commend the community for their warm welcoming of me and my staff and your gracious hospitality at the reception and throughout the day.
2. I wish to commend the community for their support of the “Build Up the Body of Christ” campaign underway to expand the narthex and renovate the lower church. This represents major change to the traditional structure and use of space at St. Clement’s.
3. I wish to commend the community for their trust and support of the Conventual Franciscan Friars. You have made clear your love of the Friars and of their leadership. I am confident that the parish is in good hands.
4. I wish to commend the community for their commitment and love of your parish. At the reception following liturgy on the day of the pastoral visit, we heard many comments from you about the parish—many stand out—“People here will do anything for the parish” and “People ask to volunteer.”
5. I wish to commend the community for the breadth and diversity of their ministries including a very active St. Vincent de Paul Society, which operates an extensive Food Pantry under the leadership of Deacon Nick Fuerer.
6. I wish to commend Jane Wolfe, a parish volunteer, for her long standing ministry to persons with developmental disabilities.
7. I wish to commend the community for their support of Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats. I learned that this retreat program is so successful that other dioceses are interested in incorporating it.
8. I wish to commend the 80 to 90 parishioners who make monthly casseroles as an outreach to the homeless and hungry.
9. I wish to commend the community for their respect life activity and programs, which are shared among three parishes.

10. I wish to commend the community for their obvious pride in being a multi-generational parish, which enhances the community and provides a living "Corporate History" of the parish.
11. I wish to commend the Pastor, Father Donald Grzymiski, for his fine leadership and his efforts to share information broadly with the community so that all feel well-informed.
12. I wish to commend the Pastor for his wise administration of the parish. His careful oversight of parish finances is reflected in the reduction of expenses and the prudent use of the resources of the parish.
13. I wish to commend the Pastor for his efforts to welcome all through the practice of sending letters to new people in the area welcoming them and inviting them to "come and see."
14. I wish to commend the Franciscan Friars for building relationships in the community. Parishioners seem very aware and appreciative of the warmth and invitational atmosphere fostered by the Friars.
15. I wish to commend the Staff for their commitment to monthly staff meetings, which enhances communication and planning among them and for their good working relationship.
16. I wish to commend the Staff for their commitment to planning and visioning together for the future of the parish in conjunction with the Pastoral Council.
17. I wish to commend Pastor and Staff for their engagement in annual evaluations of their ministries and job performance.
18. I wish to commend Pat Wagner for her attention to catechist formation and the catechist for their willingness to participate in catechist formation.
19. I wish to commend the catechists for their catechetical outreach.
20. I wish to commend Pat Wagner and the catechists for integrating persons with developmental disabilities into the catechetical programs.
21. I wish to commend all those involved in the general upkeep and enhancements of the parish buildings and grounds. The gardens and grounds are well-maintained as are the building interiors. It is evident that great care is taken in the maintenance of buildings and grounds.

22. I wish to commend the Finance Council for efforts to implement the recommendations of the most recent audit and for the quarterly review of the parish budget.
23. I wish to commend the Finance Council for beginning an endowment through the “Mustard Seed” grant.
24. I wish to commend the Finance Council for addressing the parish community on Stewardship.
25. I wish to commend the Administrative Staff for using QuickBooks online and for an excellently prepared annual report.
26. I wish to commend the Parish Corporators for meeting quarterly and for their careful oversight of the parish resources.
27. I wish to commend the Parish Corporators, for their good working relationship with the Pastoral Council.
28. I wish to commend the Pastoral Council for their commitment to council ministry and their dedication to the future growth of the parish.
29. I wish to commend the Pastoral Council for adopting a discernment method to surface candidates for Pastoral Council ministry.
30. I wish to commend the Pastoral Council for developing an efficient infrastructure to liaison with committees and to use council meeting time wisely.
31. I wish to commend the Pastoral Council for initiating the Hospitality Weekends, which are hosted by the various committees and organizations in the parish.
32. I wish to commend the Pastoral Council for fostering the Health and Wellness Committee’s work to educate parishioners through nutritional counseling, blood pressure screening and other activities. I also commend the committee for conducting a parish survey to learn the health needs of parishioners.

There are myriad ways that the parish of St. Clement Mary Hofbauer lives its mission. It would be impossible for me to acknowledge everything in this report. The commendations listed here are but some examples of the excellent ministry performed daily by parishioners and staff.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are given with the confidence that you will take them into account as you plan and will make every effort to address them over the next few years.

Planning

1. I ask the Pastor, Staff and Pastoral Council to explore ways to inform and educate the parish community regarding The Hope That Lies Before Us in light of present efforts throughout the Archdiocese to address the declining number of available priests and the need to look at different models of leadership.
2. I ask that the Pastoral Council develop a more formalized long range planning process and to coordinate this planning effort with Staff.

Parish Life and Ministry

1. I ask the Pastoral Council, Staff and Pastor to explore ways to more fully incorporate the Philipino, Hispanic and Nigerian Communities into the life of the parish.
2. I ask the Pastor to continue to explore mass schedules with Annunciation Parish.
3. I ask the Pastor and Staff to explore the feasibility of hiring a Youth Minister.

Faith Formation

I am aware of the declining numbers of Catholic children participating in sacramental preparation programs. I want to acknowledge the efforts of all those involved in the faith formation of the young to inspire and cultivate in them the desire to be full participants in the sacramental life of the Church.

1. I ask the Parish Leadership and School Community to challenge young adults to become more involved in the parish and to be an active part of the worshipping community.
2. I ask the Director of Religious Education to implement the Child Protection component into the catechetical program.

3. I ask that the Director of Religious Education implement Catechesis for Human Sexuality and Child Protection in all grade levels.
4. I ask that the Director of Religious Education and Pastor work together to insure that Confirmation preparation and celebration take place in the home parish, not in the parish where young people attend school.

Parish Operations

1. I ask that the Facilities Personnel to work with the Pastor and other Appropriate persons to evaluate and determine the next steps regarding the following:
 - Church roof leakage
 - Replacement of school boilers in C building
 - Underground tanks
2. I ask the Pastor to work with Finance Council to develop a Capital Expense Budget and a Capital Projects plan to guide decisions over the next five years.
3. I ask the Parish Corporators to be diligent in their oversight of the finances through monitoring of the budget on a regular basis and by sitting in at Finance Council meetings and to insure that the community is informed of the financial realities of the parish.
4. I ask the Parish Corporators, Pastor and School Principal to meet to clarify the parish-school relationships and to initiate sharing school information at Pastoral Council meetings.

Staff and Council Development

1. I as the Staff to take advantage of professional enrichment opportunities within their specific areas of ministry.
2. I ask the Pastoral Council and Staff to engage in the development of a Pastoral Plan to provide guidance for decision-making and direction over the next 5 years. I suggest that the Council and Staff set aside a day to engage in this planning effort and that the subsequent pastoral plan be shared with the community.
3. I ask the Staff and Council to set aside some time for spiritual enrichment at least annually through a retreat experience off-site.
4. I ask Staff and Council to plan times for socializing and community building among themselves.

5. I ask the Council and Staff to call on the services of any office of Central Services to assist in Staff and Council Development subject to the areas determined by the Staff and Council.

St. Clement Mary Hofbauer School

The school has a “homey” feel to it; the hallways and classrooms are nicely decorated allowing an immediate happy and inviting feeling. The principal, assistant principal, faculty and staff were all extremely welcoming and kind. If the school always looks this nice and if on a daily basis they treat all current and prospective students and families with the same genuine hospitality which I experienced, I am certain that a noticeable strength of the school is the warm, nurturing environment where all feel safe and cared for.

I also noted that there is an experienced faculty who, prior to the requirements imposed by the Division of Catholic Schools, did a comprehensive Scope and Sequence for their entire curriculum. This makes me hopeful that the Division of School’s new initiative on curriculum mapping will be met with great success within this school community. I heard repeatedly that the school strives for academic excellence.

The Principal speaks proudly of the Catholic identity of the school and feels that her full school community embraces the mission of the school.

There are some concerns that I bring to your attention.

1. I ask that non-returning families be contacted by an appropriate member of the staff to inquire as to “the why” behind their departure. This is particularly important in light of the dropping enrollment (25 below the budgeted number this year).
2. I ask that the Principal, Assistant Principal, School Board and Pastor explore the feasibility of acquiring the services of a Director of Development or Institutional Advancement to promote marketing and development of the school. This was recommended in the 2001 Strategic Plan for the Division of Catholic Schools. (Some schools share this position with the parish).
3. I ask that the School Board establish working committees as soon as possible to take on specific responsibilities, particularly in the area of Development. Mrs. Carol Goldbeck may be of assistance in this endeavor.

4. I ask that the Pastor and Principal schedule regular meetings to monitor progress in the school and to strategize together regarding the parish/school plans for the future.

Development

1. I ask the Staff to continue to develop the parish website.

CONCLUSION

During the pastoral visit, I became more aware of the strong bonds of community that permeate St. Clement's over many generations. It was obvious to me that parishioners care deeply about their parish and take great pride in its vitality. The statement that I heard several times during the visit—"This is a very active and friendly parish" is evidence of your love of this faith community. I sensed a strong energy among parishioners and parish leadership and have no doubt that you will continue to bring the Gospel message to many. . It was a pleasure to be with you. As your Bishop, I promise my support and prayers as you continue to be the presence of Christ in the community of St. Clement. I ask your prayers and support as I continue my ministry to the parishes of the Eastern Vicariate.

September 28, 2007