

ST JOSEPH ON THE RIO GRANDE



*Dear Parishioners of St. Joseph on the Rio Grande,
To ensure full transparency, I spoke to you during all Masses on April 17th and 18th regarding the Archdiocese of Santa Fe settlement and the \$300,000 request to our Parish to help fund the settlement. I know it was difficult to hear and the Finance Council along with Monsignor, want to make sure you are informed. Below is the information I presented, including additional questions we have received as a result of the presentation. If you have other questions, please reach out to a Finance Council member or the Parish Office and the Finance Council will respond.*

Blessings,

Frances Donio, Finance Council Chair

Humble Beginnings

St. Joseph on the Rio Grande Parish began in 1986. In 1998, the Archdiocese of Santa Fe donated 8 acres for our church at a value of over \$600,000 with no expectation of repayment. November 2000, St. Joseph on the Rio Grande church is dedicated. We have grown from a small community meeting in a chapel to a large community, a member of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and in union with the Roman Catholic Church.

We have given back throughout the years hundreds of thousands of dollars including over \$300,000 to Cross Catholic International. We give without question and without judgement.

Archdiocese of Santa Fe Agreement

The Archdiocese of Santa Fe reached a settlement agreement with the claimants committee regarding the clergy abuse. The amount is confidential by law, but substantial enough it will require a collective effort by the Archdiocese and the parishes to raise the required amount. The Archdiocese is requesting St. Joseph on the Rio Grande contribute \$300,000.

St. Joseph on the Rio Grande Options

Option 1 is to contribute funds to the settlement. Contributing funds secures a Channeling Injunction. The Channeling Injunction protects the parish from any of the claimants who brought suit against the Archdiocese of Santa Fe prior to December 2018 and any who may come forward in the future for cases occurring prior to December 2018. The Channeling Injunction is to protect all parishes.

Option 2 is not to contribute. The parish would have to defend itself against the possibility of individual suits brought by as many as 400 claimants. The cost of defending St. Joseph on the Rio Grande from these suits would be staggering and could possibly lead to the loss of all our liquid and fixed assets. There are no cases regarding St. Joseph on the Rio Grande but that would not protect us from a suit.

After in depth discussion with the Archdiocese of Santa Fe chief financial officer, much deliberation and prayers, the Finance Council approved the \$300,000 contribution.

St. Joseph on the Rio Grande Plan to Fund Contribution

The Finance Council approved the usage of two savings accounts: General Savings and Repairs and Maintenance. All monies designated or saved for ministries will remain untouched. The funds are transferred to a 6 month CD to gain interest until they are required by the Archdiocese.

Financial Impact

The contribution will reduce available funds by 53% which include general checking and savings accounts. The available funds excludes designated funds, ministry funds and Nazareth Center funds. Days cash on hand will drop to 129 days demonstrating **the Parish will remain financially healthy.** [Days cash on hand identifies the number of days can continue to pay all bills if income comes to a complete stop.]

Key Takeaways

Monsignor and the Finance Council know this is difficult to hear, we also know not everyone may be supportive of the decision to contribute \$300,000. There are two critical points to take away:

1. St. Joseph on the Rio Grande has the available funds to contribute without enduring financial risk.
2. Our mission statement conveys, St. Joseph on the Rio Grande is a member of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and is in union with the Roman Catholic Church. We are one Church, one body.

Please keep those hurt by abuse in your prayers as well as our Church to find peace and healing.

Question/Answers

Do we need to increase our contributions to the parish to cover the Archdiocese request? The Parish has the available funds to contribute to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe request of \$300,000.

Are all parishes contributing to the settlement? The Archdiocese of Santa Fe requested participation from every parish, however, each parish is unique in its financial standing. Some are very poor and can barely keep their lights on. We are fortunate to be able to contribute and hopefully help cover for those who are not able to contribute as much.

Will the Archdiocese of Santa Fe come back and request additional funds over the \$300,000? At this time we do not know whether additional funds are needed in order to reach the settlement goal. The hope is that every parish will do its utmost best at the present time to participate in this process.

How will the amount St. Joseph on the Rio Grande provides be helpful to fill such a large need? Every little bit helps. Our contribution will help those who were abused, while the Channeling Injunction will protect the properties which are considered essential to the church's mission such as our churches, halls, rectories and schools.

Was there a formula to determine how much each parish is asked to contribute? Yes, the parishes with significant debt are asked to contribute 50% of assets, those without significant debt are asked to contribute 60% of assets.

What means will the Archdiocese of Santa Fe use to raise the required funds for the settlement? Insurance will cover a large portion, other avenues to secure funds include sale of Archdiocese of Santa Fe assets and contribution from parishes.

Is it possible for an individual to contribute to the Settlement Fund? St. Joseph on the Rio Grande is not soliciting the Parish for contributions. If an individual wishes to contribute to the Settlement Fund contact the Archdiocese of Santa Fe directly or contribute to St. Joseph on the Rio Grande designating your donation for the Settlement Fund.