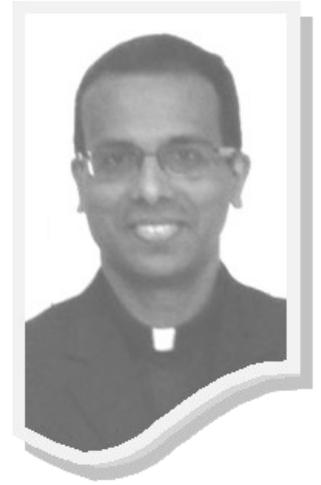




From the Pastor



Religious Retirement Collection

Next weekend will be the National Religious Retirement Collection weekend. To all those who have contributed toward this in the past, I offer prayerful thanks. Our diocesan priests have served the Church, and they have done so for relatively little material reward. These dedicated priests deserve a just retirement for their committed years of service to the diocese. Over the last 30 years, the parishioners in our diocese have donated a total of \$1,168,480 to this collection.

The priests of the Diocese of Baker have their own Health and Retirement Association. When a priest of the diocese retires, he receives payments from the association of \$1,384 per month. Additionally, our priests also receive Medicare supplement insurance. The Health and Retirement Association also makes payments to the dioceses of our foreign-born priests based on a years-of-service schedule after they have served in our diocese.

The Health and Retirement Association currently has about \$822,400 in assets, most of which is invested in the Legacy of Faith Catholic Community Foundation of Oregon for the priests of the Diocese of Baker. However, the unfunded pension liability, meaning the amount of money required to make the Association fully funded, is estimated at more than \$1million. In short, the Diocesan Health and Retirement Association is significantly underfunded and, this collection, along with our own Bishop’s Annual Appeal are two of its major funding sources.

Last year our diocese collected \$116,869 during this collection, and religious institutes, as well as our own diocesan priests who have served our diocese, benefited from it. Because of our large, unfunded pension liability, the diocese will again retain the majority of this collection. We will continue to support the religious sisters and brothers who have served in our diocese by sending a significant gift to the national office. The Annual Collection for the Retirement Fund will be conducted in our diocese on the weekend of **December 8th and 9th** to correspond with all other dioceses across the nation, as we have typically done in years past. The envelopes are in the pews and at the back of both churches. I urge you to continue to support this important and necessary collection.

—Fr. Jose Thomas



Blessings given . . . Blessings received . . .



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: There were 1,717 letters mailed to the parish families of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in October 2018 regarding our Stewardship Campaign. To date, we have received 139 pledge cards to support the 2019 operating expenses, as well as those still wishing to help deplete the debt.

Please remember to bring your envelopes with your pledge card to church, drop it in the mail, or use the online giving option.

Call the Stewardship Office if you have any questions or concerns at (541) 382-3631, Ext. 106.