

In Prayer and Thanksgiving...

It has been an amazing week so far. The weekend before Thanksgiving we had the Christmas Faire. I wonder how many of us realize how much time it takes to plan and organize something like that? I have sat through almost all the planning meetings for it. I got acquainted with some of the finest persons in our parish who love St. Francis Church and spent a lot of their time and energy to build up our parish community. It is an event like the Christmas Faire that brings us together and helps build community. I want to express my deep appreciation to all those amazing volunteers who worked tirelessly as well as all those who donated toward the Christmas Faire. HUGE thanks go to Sherry Rice who did an awesome job in coordinating this event and other events in our Church family. Please know that without the sacrifices all of you make, St. Francis would never be the same. Thanks to all who attended the Christmas Faire—and know that all your help goes to pay down on the church mortgage. We made about \$14,500.

Next weekend is the Religious Retirement weekend. The envelopes are in the pews for your convenience. Please make a generous donation toward the retirement of the clergy in our diocese and elsewhere. The Clergy Retirement Fund of our Diocese is significantly underfunded—the “payout” is greater than the “pay in.” If this trend continues, there will be no money left in the fund in the next 10 to 12 years. Hopefully, we can reverse this trend.

In the hope of evangelizing this Christmas, we want to reach out to many Catholics who are inactive and others who may not be Catholics but may join us for the Christmas celebrations this year. We hope to pass out books and CDs with a great message, and invite them to a time of social fellowship in January. Thanks for keeping this project in your prayers. I appreciate your diligence in

saying the "Christmas Evangelization Prayer," found in this bulletin, every day till the end of the Christmas Season. As you know, prayer works wonders!

—*Father Jose*