

On the Building and Grounds

There are three projects which have priority for the parish: The roof, the pine trees, and the sewer.

I contacted five different companies to come out and give estimates and opinions as to what should be done with our leaking roof. Four of them said it was beyond repair. Of those four – all of which had good references – two were the most thorough in their estimates, and the most professional. After consulting the Building Committee, and the Finance Council (whose advice was identical), I've selected A & H Roofing to do the work. The cost will be \$32,307.00. This includes complete removal of the old system (which is simply worn out), new base installation, a new drain system (ours is insufficient, which is one of the reasons for the old roof system wearing out), new flashing, with the building permit.

One of the problems which contributed to the demise of our drainage system, are the pine trees so close to the building, which drop a great amount of needles directly on to the roof, thus clogging some drains. If you've noticed as well, some of the trees are pressing heavily on the power lines, which are not designed to take that kind of load. So, a few of the trees need to be removed. We have parishioners who are good with a chain saw, but since some of the work is near power lines, I would prefer hiring a company to do the work.

Since we have had to call a plumbing company twice for the rectory since I've been here, and since there have been backups at the parish hall, I had a company run a video feed into the pipes to see what the problem is with both. Fortunately, the main line from the hall to the street is in good shape. However, since there have been several backups at the hall, and the repair is expensive, we need to have a clean-out port installed in the basement, and to purchase our own power snake.

The rectory line is good under the floor (good, old cast-iron pipe), but from the edge of the house to the city line, every single seam is compromised, and two seams are 50% blocked. It needs to be dug up and replaced. The estimate for this is \$3,500.00.

So for these projects, we are looking at about \$40,000.00. How are we going to pay for it? First, you should know several things:

1. District Headquarters has decided to pay Fr. Hearty's salary in full for one year. That will be reviewed sometime in the spring, but it is a big help to us.
 2. The old loan taken from the Archdiocese is finally paid off.
 3. The loan taken from the FSSP will be paid off in December.
 4. We have about 40K in savings.
 5. Some new parishioners have generously pledged 15K (!) to pay for the roof.
- Other donations have come in for this as well.

So while we are in good shape financially, we are not rich.

Please know that I do not want the pulpit used for fundraising. That is not its purpose. Instead, I wish to rely first on the providence of God, second, on due diligence and exercising the virtue of prudence in these decisions, and thirdly, your generosity. So, there is

now a place in our budget for donations earmarked for the roof, sewer and tree projects. Would you prayerfully consider donating to this, by placing a check or cash in an envelope designated for that purpose, and putting it into the collection? No donation is too small.

I am convinced before God, from my own prayer, consideration, and work, that this is His will. And to put my money where my mouth is, I will donate one month's salary for the project, and have written a check in the amount of \$895.00 to the parish.

I hope you will support this. But if financial support is beyond your means at this time, then please consider saying some prayers for the projects.

Thank you, and God bless you all!