

From Pontiff to Pew (continued)

the Church, whose authority is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ” (no. 10). “Deposit” is a term that, in its original meaning, is juridical in nature and imposes on the depositary the duty to preserve the content, which in this case is the faith, and to transmit it intact. The “deposit” of the Word of God is still in the hands of the Church today, and all of us, in our various ecclesial ministries, must continue to preserve it in its integrity, as a lodestar for our journey through the complexity of history and existence.

In conclusion, dear friends, let us listen once more to Dei Verbum, which exalts the interweaving of Sacred Scripture and Tradition: it affirms that they “are so linked and joined together that they cannot stand independently, and together, each in their own way, under the action of the one Holy Spirit, they contribute effectively to the salvation of souls” (cf. no. 10).

From the Pastor’s Desk

Dear friends of Visitation Parish,

Well, it is difficult to believe that one month of the new year has passed and that February is already upon us and that within two and one half weeks we will be beginning of the Lenten Season. January, I must say, did not provide the best beginning for 2026 for me. On Wednesday, January 14 I was admitted to Allegheny General Hospital with a severe case of pneumonia. Unfortunately, as part of the diagnostic procedures, the doctors decided to use a contrast dye to determine the specific type of pneumonia which resulted in a severe kidney injury (to my already weakened kidneys) that kept me in the hospital until Thursday, January 22, and from which I am still recovering. Fortunately, I have a new nephrologist who is helping to stabilize the kidney issues, and I have lost ten (10) of the thirty-three (33) pounds of water weight that I gained from being in stage 3b of kidney failure. I was able to lose this amount of weight because of carefully monitored use of diuretics since dialysis is not an option at this point. I am so grateful to God for this and although 23 extra pounds is a lot to carry around, the loss of the equivalent of a ten-pound sack of potatoes is rather freeing. In addition, I feel much better than I have felt in a long time. Yes, there are a number of other complications that “weigh” me down; however, overall God is very good to me, and I am able to go about my regular duties rather well. Never forget my friends how powerful prayer is and how merciful our loving God is.

On another front, I have some unfortunate news that I need to share with you; however, I did not have the opportunity to do so until now due to my aforementioned illness. On Thursday, January 8, I received a letter from the Learning Lamp that they were terminating their lease with us on March 6, 2026, which was sixty days after their

letter was dated which conformed to the agreement set forth in our lease agreement. I was completely surprised by this letter since we had signed a 10-year agreement with the Learning Lamp and since we went out of our way to assure them that they were well cared for as a tenant. It is my feeling that this was “in the works” for quite some time for I have since learned that their enrollment has been dropping for a number of reasons. In any case, I hope that those whom they served, especially those who found our location to be extremely convenient, will find alternative day care for their children.

At present we are seeking a new tenant for our school building. The good news is that the Learning Lamp invested a great deal of money in the infrastructure of our school building. For example, all of the school windows have been replaced, the bathroom in the main lobby of the school have been completely refurbished (that is the main set of bathrooms for the school), all of the floors in the classrooms were replaced by luxury vinyl plank flooring, the entire interior of the school has been repainted, and several other minor investments were made. The other good news is that I am aware of some interest within the community. To be clear, there is no definite interest at this point, so I ask your prayers, since the rental of our school building at a fair price does significantly impact out parish budget.

Otherwise, things seem to be working rather smoothly for Visitation Parish. As a teaser, I want to let you know that there is quite a bit in the works for spiritual education/formation/and growth here at Visitation Parish for the season of Lent – more information will be in the bulletin in the coming weeks. Don’t forget to sign up for prayer partners and for the Mardi-Gras Party in the main vestibule of the Church. Please keep me in your prayers as I do you daily. God bless and be well.

Combined Council Meeting

There will be combined council meeting on Thursday, February 5 at 6:00 PM in the school cafeteria. Although this is very short notice, it is essential that all members of each council make every effort to attend since there are some urgent matters to which we much attend. Please call the rectory by Monday at the end of the business day to inform the rectory if you will NOT be attending the meeting. Thank you.

Lenten Prayer Partners

Once again, this Lent, we will be matching individuals as prayer partners. Next Sunday, slips will be available in the main vestibule of the church for you to submit your name to be matched with a prayer partner for the Lenten Season. You will be provided with the name of your prayer partner after Mass on either Ash Wednesday or the First Sunday of Lent.