

## **PASTOR'S NOTES** for March 01, 2015

In the *Criterion - Question Corner* by Fr. Kenneth Doyle for Friday, February 13, 2015, someone asked about **financial audits** for Catholic Institutions, particularly parishes and dioceses. Fr. Doyle answered the question. In essence, Canon (i.e., Church) law does not explicitly require a regular audit, but it does require Finance Councils (FC) at both the diocesan and parish levels. We have a FC here at St Mary's, currently chaired by Doug Krieger. Appended to Fr. Doyle's response were some specific statements regarding specific policies in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Archdiocesan offices are audited annually with the results included in the annual report in the *Criterion* each fall. Local parishes are required to provide an annual financial report to the Archdiocese each September. (That is when St Mary's puts out our Annual State of the Parish Report.) Local parishes are also audited for financial procedures on a three-year cycle. St Mary just went through the audit process by The Macke Group, Batesville in December 2014 with our findings and responses finished in January 2015. You can read the report and FC response to the findings on the parish website. Nothing drastic was discovered, but in an effort to be fully accountable and transparent, you are welcome to review the report. If you have any questions, please let me know. The FC, parish staff, and I take great care to be good stewards of the financial blessings of the parish. This includes carefully and accurately processing those blessings as they are received and utilized by the parish. Thank you for your continued generosity.

This Lent there are extra opportunities for you to experience God's Grace and Mercy in the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. Wednesday, March 3 and Wednesday, March 18 from 6:30-8p, we will have "The Light is On for You." I will be in the Church hearing Confessions during these times. Our Parish Lenten Penance Service will be on Thursday, March 12 at 7p. There will be several brother priests joining me that night. Of course, I will have my standard Confessions times on Saturday from 4:30-5:20p and Tuesdays from 6:00-6:25p. What you should really read in all this is, we really want you to take advantage of this Sacrament in preparation for Easter! St Mary, Pray for us. ~ Fr. Gries