Well, a blessed autumn season to everyone. The air is getting crisper, the leaves becoming more golden, balloons a’risin’ in the early Albuquerque skies. Great reading—and napping—weater, especially on those rainy and overcast days. On those, we are thankful ever more so for the gift of coffee.

Let’s see if we can have some updates on what’s going on around the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

Bankruptcy: Of course, everyone wonders how it’s going with the bankruptcy. We are pleased to report that we met the goal of $65 million required by Sept. 30. Our second and final goal is to collect another $10 million by Mar. 31, and then we will have met the target agreed upon with the victim/claimants.

We’re striving to make it, but not there yet! We thank all of the donors and parishes around the archdiocese for their very generous support in this effort, which not only (hopefully) brings some healing to the victims, but also relieves the archdiocese and the parishes of the continued fear of lawsuits for abuse occurring prior to the filing for bankruptcy in Dec. 2018. To reach our goal, we’ve had to rely on some pretty hefty loans that we’ll be paying on for several years, but with God’s grace, we will one day start with a clean financial slate.

Along with the monetary settlement, there will also be some non-monetary conditions to the bankruptcy settlement, most of which are targeted at strengthening even more protections from abuse happening ever again. Most of these will affect the archdiocesan offices, but there will also be some parish and school requirements.

In all of this, we remember that analogy of cutting out a cancer: it’s painful, but in the end, it provides healing, and the body is much healthier. Child abuse is a cancer in any society or organization; let us always pray and strive to prevent it from happening ever again.

St. Pius X High School: We are VERY pleased to report St. Pius X High School has been successfully monetized (its value acquired for the bankruptcy settlement) and the school saved for the future education of our young people. SPX now owns the whole footprint, including the Catholic Center, parking lots, and Madonna Retreat Center. However, the archdiocesan offices will stay where they are for the foreseeable future. The new corporation formed to manage the day-to-day operations of the school has big plans for increasing enrollment and continuous improvement of the already-surpassing norm education provided there. And certainly, nowhere else in the immediate area of Albuquerque can or will provide a good Catholic moral and religious education that young people can take with them for the rest of their lives. Laying a good foundation is essential to lifelong Catholic faith.

Personnel: Because of the bankruptcy, we’ve had to cut a lot of personnel to make ends meet—both in the parishes and archdiocesan offices. So, please be patient as we have necessarily loaded more work on fewer people.

Also, we have a shortage of priests at present, barely keeping up with Masses. There may be times when a deacon or even a layperson has to do Sunday Celebration without a priest service, so please understand we’re doing the best we can with too few resources. And encourage your young people to consider vocations—young men priesthood, and both young men and women religious life.

Finally, remember October is a month of our Blessed Mother, so pray for her intercession with her Son for the good of all in our archdiocese. All Saints Day (Nov. 1) is a holy day of obligation this year, so let us come together in the Holy Mass to celebrate the saints, but in celebrating the saints, we celebrate Christ, who they emulated and are examples for us of steadfast faith. Also, All Souls is Nov. 2 for us to pray for our dead, and while not a holy day of obligation, it is a wonderful practice to come pray for the dead. And it’s important for parishioners to know the archdiocese allows the collection for All Souls Day to be for the priests of the parish; this includes the All Souls envelopes for your deceased. This is considered part of their annual compensation should they choose to accept it (priests don’t get paid a lot, as you likely know). You may want to ask your pastor whether they’ll be exercising that privilege so you know where your collection $$$ is going; some pastors accept it, and some don’t. In any event, thank you for your support of our priests.

So, ’til next time, once again, we pray:

The Lord bless you and keep you:

The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you:

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)