

Parish Trustee Message

Given at all Masses, October 10/11, 2020

Good morning. Our role as parish trustees includes having an overall view of the parish operation, including our financial status.

What a year this has been. Our current year theme, **This is Church, This is Family, This is Home** is very fitting.

As a Family, we faced an uncertain world, but the church is built for times like these; to be a beacon of hope and a place where we support one another. First, thanks to you, we remain a financially stable parish. The Year-End Report will arrive in your mailbox soon. It shares many of the details we will address today regarding our last fiscal year and the current budget.

Through your generosity, our stewardship has been tracking positive for the first few months of our fiscal year. However, because of the projected longer-term impact of the pandemic to our parish family, we have budgeted for no increase in stewardship. Due to fear associated with the virus, we have also budgeted for a decrease in enrollment at our school. The combination of these two projections, along with naturally occurring increases in expenses, led us to submit a deficit budget to the archdiocese of close to \$300,000. This means we forecasted our costs to exceed our revenues.

As a FAMILY, we made cuts when needed, but were able to continue to serve you. We explored every government program and took advantage of the Paycheck Protection Program. This gave us the ability to continue to pay all employees during the months of the shutdown.

School operated remotely with students, teachers, and parents working together. Enrollment this year is down slightly, as expected. Our Principal, Jill Fischer, and a leadership team that included parents, created strategies for this year. We have just under 400 students who are in school, in person, five days a week. God is good.

As a Family, we couldn't gather together this past July for Dominic Days. This could have affected our budget, but not to worry, the festival team and our **generous sponsors** stepped up again. We had one of the best golf outings ever, a very successful raffle, and a drive through chicken dinner to close out our Dominic Days events. While we lost much of the community-building portion of the festival, the proceeds from these three events will offset most of the lost revenue.

As a Family, we faced financial challenges together. Several parishioners were in a position to make special gifts. One parishioner came in and simply stated that he was blessed, and we, St. Dominic, probably needed the money more than he did. Others continued to drop off their contribution envelopes, while many took advantage of our online giving tools. Contributions currently run very close to budget. Thank you for your generosity. Some in our family are struggling. Families support each other in difficult times—*know that we are praying for you.*

As a Family, we stayed in touch. Yard signs, phone calls, letters, and our communications increased to keep parishioners informed and engaged. Outreach, including the Lenten Mission, still occurred. Ministry to our homebound has increased—*please contact us if you are in need.*

This is Church. Everything is possible with God. Pictures replaced parishioners in the pews. We kept our church open for private prayer. We missed you. When allowed, we opened with safety precautions. Each week, we welcome back more of our family to the pews and we welcome new members. We are blessed to have tireless clergy and worship teams allowing us to host eight Masses per weekend. We have room for you. We continue to pray for those who are unable to return at this time. We hope they join us for our live stream Mass and give us a call to catch up.

This is HOME.

This is YOUR home.

Together, THIS family has a mission. We trust that no matter what is happening in our world, in our families or communities, Christ does not change. Christ is the same. Yesterday. Today. Tomorrow. His mission remains the same. He came to share God's merciful love with all people, and as Disciples of Christ, we have that same mission.

Please watch for your 2021 Stewardship Appeal Materials coming in the mail in the weeks ahead. Please prayerfully consider how you will be a part of this mission.

Commitment Weekend is October 24 and 25.

Christ is here for us, He is here for YOU.

May God Bless you.



Joe King
Trustee



Kathy Hoffman
Trustee