

Parish Trustee Message given at all Masses, May 4/5, 2019

Good morning. This is the annual “finish strong” message.

Let’s start with the **what**. To end the fiscal year with a balanced budget, we need to receive \$260,000 in our offertory by June 30 --just 9 weeks away. Your annual treasure commitments determine our annual budget.

Are you now asking yourself, **why**? The simple answer is **our future** is rooted in forming people in love with God and one another. Pastoral Council and Fr. Dennis have developed key priorities within our parish mission. One priority is to help our teens fall in love with Jesus Christ. Another is to have an exemplary school that is affordable.

Can you imagine being a teenager today? In a society where the moral and ethical bars are increasingly challenged, supporting our middle and high school students is more important than ever. Programs like Edge and Life Teen, providing opportunities for mission experiences and a general deepening of faith, helps provide our teens with the strength to stand up and live a life **in and through Christ**. As a parish, we have an awesome responsibility to help them form an intentional relationship with Christ—to fall in love with Jesus. Here is a shocking statistic: two-thirds of teens will leave the Catholic Church before they graduate from high school...two-thirds. Many by the age of 13. By helping them encounter Christ and find a place to belong, we ensure the strength and future of the Catholic Church.

Helping parents build and instill a foundation of faith through a vibrant, affordable school is everyone’s responsibility. We are better as a parish and as a society when we have a strong school. Through your financial support, for the first time in over a quarter century, the Finance Council was able to freeze tuition for next year. While parents still pay the majority of the cost to educate a child, we, as a parish, invest almost \$2,000 per child, or 33% to help make our grade school affordable. That support comes from all of us. Many of us attended Catholic grade schools and would not trade that experience. Forming our children is vital.

Financial stewardship supports the formation of all parishioners by funding the many ministries we offer. Our mission is **lifelong** formation—from children, to super seniors, to the homebound, and everything in between. It provides us the opportunity to have two wonderful priests in a time where one pastor may serve 2, 3, or even 5 parishes. We are blessed to have a community we can call **family**.

Time for the **how**. First, we call on everyone to engage deeper. How? Commit to prayer ...every day. Be a regular and active participant at Mass. Attend a ministry or parish event. Serve others.

From a financial perspective, please prayerfully consider what you can do to help us reach our goal of \$260,000 in 9 weeks. **Do you need to catch up on your pledged amount? Are you in a position to make a one-time gift? Do you have the ability to increase your commitment long-term?**

Thank you for your continued support. Thank you for modeling your faith for others. Thank you for **Believing and Belonging**. May God continue to bless you.

Jerry Buting & Kathy Hoffman, Trustees