

October 16, 2020

Dear Parishioner,

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for the unprecedented and continued support over this past year. As you may have read in the Annual Report, and despite the challenging and uncertain times, we have found creative and safe ways to stay engaged with parishioners and continue to build our faith community.

We have worked hard to provide a safe and socially distanced opportunity to come together and pray including an increased number of weekend Masses to seven and our most popular outdoor parking lot Mass. Additionally, we continue to live stream our Sunday Mass for those of you unable to attend in person. During the church closure, we provided daily reflections on YouTube and visited parishioners, all while respecting social distancing. Most recently, we have established an online Faith Formation Program for Grades 1-10; hired a much needed Music Director and expanded the St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry to meet the needs of those experiencing hardships. None of this could be possible without your help and an incredibly dedicated staff!!!

Now more than ever, our parish is called upon and will continue to offer much needed hope, connectedness, encouragement and faith. We will undoubtedly face continued challenges, and we will need to rely on the Lord's guidance and grace, as well as each other, for help and support. To that end I am asking your financial help for the following reasons...

- Our offertory collection is down 7.5%, in part because of attendance restrictions. Despite the generosity of our parishioners, the collection does not support the operating expenses averaging \$ 15,526 weekly.
- Our usual income from fundraising activities, i.e. golf tournament, bazaar and parish center rentals, are not possible this year. This represents an additional \$80,000 deficit.

Because of this shortfall, our parish is even more dependent on the Grand Annual Appeal this year than in other years to subsidize our operating costs. So I ask...

- If you have generously contributed to the Grand Annual Appeal in the past, please consider maintaining or increasing this year's donation.
- Since only 10% of our parishioners/families regularly contribute to our parish and its ministries, I'm really hoping that others would be willing to make a contribution this year.

I am aware that some families have experienced financial challenges this year including loss of employment and may not be in a position to contribute. I hope and pray that they will be able to overcome those hardships to meet their needs and ask that they pray for me as I do for them. Others are fortunate and are in a position to make a donation and I am most grateful for that. If you have not read the Annual Report yet, I encourage you to do so and please refer to the enclosed card to assist in making your contribution. It's great to see and hear of the pride in our parish that so many have expressed. I thank you again for sharing your faith, your love for our parish and your concern for others. Together we will **"serve the people, face the challenges and trust the Lord."**

In addition to using the enclosed card, there are three online ways to give to this year's Appeal:

1.) Click here to pay with our online payment system [WeShare](#)

2.) Visit givebutter.com/St_Thomas_Aquinas and pay using Venmo 

3.) Scan this QR Code:



With gratitude,

