

## FROM THE PASTOR, 2017 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN APPEAL

Each year at this time, it has become a tradition to kick off our annual Stewardship Campaign Appeal. The last two years have proven to be a huge success. As you may recall, we have been able to raise, because of your outstanding generosity each year, 125,000 thousand dollars! What can I say to such generosity but wow! So here we are in this third year; and I along with our Finance Council and Pastoral Council collaborated in order to set our goal...to which I proposed, what about a three-peat, and to which they unanimously and immediately agreed. So why not, let's do it again!

This past September in our Fiscal Report, you heard some really good news with regard to the huge hurdles we have been able to address in regard to debt reduction, the building of our PLC, the commencement of the Courtyard, and fiscal responsibility with regard to operating expenses. I say thank you to all who have made this possible, you the contributors and volunteers and all our generous benefactors. Because of your example and commitment we continue to be a vibrant, welcoming parish family, dedicated to growing disciples and making Church matter.

The revitalization of our annual Stewardship Campaign Appeal over the last two years was part of our strategic planning to emphasize our mission to grow disciples and make Church matter. Why? Because this parish helps us to encounter Jesus Christ in very pastoral and practical ways...in a phrase, to live the spiritual and corporal works of mercy: to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, comfort those who are mourning, bury the dead, to educate and catechize, and evangelize, as well as pray and support each other. Through our experiences and encounters, nourished on this campus on Sundays and throughout the week, we can go out and make disciples, just as Jesus has commanded us to do.

That having been said, you may already realize that the life of a parish is a big challenge to budget. In this regard, I need your help. The annual Stewardship Campaign Appeal helps us to create resources for our ever growing and successful pastoral efforts of:

- Evangelization - a major initiative this year will be in upgrading our use of media and technology. More information on that in the near future.
- Funding for our ministries, services and activities.
- Support to the infrastructure of our artistic and environmental enhancements.
- A contingency resource for unexpected costs.
- Additionally, monies donated allow us to use regular collections toward the loan and other operating expenses. Let's pray for a mild winter, just like our mild summer!

You may have noticed in our bulletin some of the programs which were helped by the Stewardship monies this past year. We will continue to feature those ministries, committees, organizations and activities that benefit from this campaign. A more detailed report will be available in the near future.

As always, I am most grateful and humbled for all you do for one another as a parish family. Your generosity, kindness and witness to our Catholic Faith are all a source of inspiration to me as your pastor. In the next few days you will receive a letter from me asking for your help to achieve our goal of \$125,000 thousand dollars. Remember, let's go for the trifecta, a three-peat, and this will go far to assist us in providing for the spiritual and corporal works of mercy in very practical and pastoral ways. God bless you all. Be assured of my continued prayers for you and your intentions, and please, please pray for me.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas, Pray for us!

### ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN APPEAL REPORT FOR 2016-2017

Through the Stewardship Appeal Campaign, along with some other generous resources, we have been able to provide important funding to support our strategic plan which includes our evangelization efforts that normally would have come from our operating expenses or would not come to fruition at all. These endeavors have concretely added to our ability to be a vibrant welcoming parish family, growing disciples and making Church matter. In particular:

- Ministries and organizations annual budgets – \$37,000
- Evangelization efforts and outreach – \$35,000
- Youth and young adult ministry – \$12,000
- Infrastructure for artistic work and environment – \$11,000
- Media technology initiative, part 1 – \$10,000
- Administrative costs and reserve fund – \$20,000

Because of your generosity with stewardship and with additional generous donors, we were able to make significant pastoral contributions to our mission parish in Bois De Laurence, Haiti, St. Anne and St. John Bosco School, as well as provide important and necessary care to our local poor and needy.

I trust that you feel confident that we are making good use of your generosity and we depend upon it again this year, in order to provide these important services to help us live out the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.