

Father, bless ☩, receive, and multiply the humble offerings of your people to the accomplishment of your purposes through Christ our Lord. Amen.

I thank God for the financial generosity of so many in this parish. Special commitments are realizing the construction of the new parish/school facility to be dedicated in August (at which point we will have a campaign booster to involve more people in the campaign). The parish school operations are doing well and are fiscally sound, with great hopes for growth in view of the new facility. Without fundraising the Stained Glass Window project is funding more than Emmanuel Studio can keep up with, but the art is proceeding at a steady pace. As I have mentioned several times now, Sunday collections to the general/operational fund this fiscal year have fluctuated wildly. You can see this in our 2nd quarter financial report published on the parish website. The 3rd quarter report (just concluded) is expected shortly. While we have the singular distinction of having the Diocesan Assessment paid on time for two consecutive years (FY 2015/16 and FY 2016/17), this year we are seriously lagging in paying several payments to the Diocese, including Priest Medical and Retirement, Staff Retirement, Workers Compensation Insurance and our Property Insurance premiums.

Roughly 20 - 25% of registered parishioners are contributing more than 80% of the parish finances. I only know this summary detail. I purposefully do not know the contribution record of any parishioner other than myself. I do know that everyone can do something and that the majority are not doing what God is giving them the capacity to do.

We (the parish staff and I) have been up front with parish needs and in reporting what we do with your contributions entrusted to our stewardship. Everyone on payroll here is doing the work of more than one person, and doing excellent work at that. Still, parishioner contributions have not met operational needs. As of the 3rd quarter, regular collections fall \$117,000.00 short of the budget needs. Between now and June 30, 2017 we must pay for the following unpaid charges and insurance premiums through the Diocese foremost:

Priest Medical Insurance	\$ 23,284.00
Priest Retirement	\$ 4,600.00
Staff Retirement (past due)	\$ 26,625.61
Workers Compensation Insurance	\$ 7,917.00
Property Insurance	<u>\$ 17,078.25</u>
Total Due:	\$ 79,504.86

Your suggestions for augmenting our income are welcome for consideration by staff, Parish Finance Committee, and by the Parish Pastoral Council. I would give consideration to mission appropriate business ventures to supplement parish income. I am opposed to depending upon major supplements of church income through gaming (which mostly separates the poor from their money).

Meanwhile, I, Fr. Al, and Fr. Basilio intend to bless each collection as it reaches the altar. Jesus Christ the Lord fed well over 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish. I am praying that he will work wonders with our humble means. It is his work. It is his Church. Fr. Richard