

Our Lady, Queen of Peace

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Dear Parishioners,

As you know over the last few years we have been talking about the need for a capital campaign to address the physical plant needs of our parish. On a regular basis, myself and other members of the staff are approached by parishioners who point out repairs that need to be made, as well as health and safety issues that exist in our buildings and other issues around the property. While some of these concerns have been attended to, many others, either because of the complexity or the cost of the repair, have been deferred. From these we have created a long list of needed repairs, replacements, code violations and suggested or requested upgrades such as an automated handicap accessible door on the side of the church. Many of these issues are “hidden” issues such as electrical and plumbing, sinking or damaged foundations, inefficient air handlers and ageing HVAC systems, while others are much more apparent such as worn or broken pews and kneelers, water leaks and other items that are clearly just worn out and failing.

We have had engineers and contractors come out to do a review these issues and they believe that we will need to raise \$1.5 million to address these repairs and upgrades. I have to say that I was shocked at the cost of many of these repairs, but was warned that the longer we put them off the more expensive it will become. However, some of these repairs simply cannot be put off, such as the flooding issue in the Ministry Center. This is a very large sum of money, but based on the standard formula used to determine a parish’s ability to raise money, which is based on annual collection totals, we should be able to raise the full amount. Even with this large of a capital campaign it is quite possible that we will not be able to do everything on our “to do list”. We will have to prioritize attending to code violations, safety issues and the most serious repairs first.

This campaign is not going to be “sleek”, there is no new building, no gilt and gold, no stained glass windows, it is much more a “meat and potatoes” campaign. It is about stewardship and maintaining and repairing our parish buildings and not letting them fall into further decline. It is about replacing worn out and inefficient systems with energy efficient ones that will actually save us money in the long run. For the success of this campaign, for the future of the infrastructure of our parish, we will need broad participation.

Our parish has a history of rising to the occasion and it is my firm belief that we will do so once again! While everyone’s financial situation is different our goal is get everyone in the parish to participate in the campaign at whatever level they can. Thank you for giving consideration to our appeal.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Timothy Hickey