

November 25, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I sincerely hope this letter finds you well and filled with the peace and joy of the risen Christ. He came into the world to renew our minds and hearts, to give us hope, and to offer us the gift of eternal life. May the peace and love of our Lord provide you strength and comfort in these trying times.

I am writing today to express my sincere gratitude to you. On October 1, 2020 a letter was mailed to all of our parishioners explaining our financial position and the impact the pandemic has had on parish income. I am happy to say that we received response cards back from over 120 parishioners to date. A total of 55 of those that responded said they would try to increase their weekly offering and a total of 60 responded with one time gifts totaling close to \$15,000. Many wrote prayer intentions on the cards and these intentions are prayed for by me and our other priests. I also believe there are many of you that have increased your offering but did not return the response card. Again, thank you for your continued love for our parish and support of our ministries.

In my first letter I described our church's bell tower lit during the darkness of night, and how our parish has reflected the light of Christ and pointed to His presence in our midst. I believe that to be true now more than ever.

The good work of our parish continues in spite of pandemic restrictions. We offer Masses and provide the most times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the area, and we keep the church open for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 24/7.

Our CCD program is thriving. A group of our young men and women received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the end of October. Another group of our children made their First Penance and received their First Holy Communion in early November. Classes, both in person and on line, continue weekly under the guidance of Sister Alina Marie Nieser.

Though scaled back compared to prior years to due social distancing protocols, Heritage Day was celebrated on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the 1:00PM Mass. It is the diversity of our parishioners that help make Our Lady of Fatima parish so special. Our annual celebration strengthens our love and respect for one another as we honor Our Lord together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

I am so grateful to our parishioners who have so faithfully supported our parish throughout the years and especially to those who responded to our appeal. I know that many people love our parish and want to do whatever they can to make it thrive. Even with the generosity of all who responded to my first letter, our total parish income is still more than \$100,000 less than last year. I know that many, perhaps you and your family, are experiencing similar or greater

financial hardships as a result of the pandemic. It is with great reluctance that I am asking those that have not responded to prayerfully consider increasing your weekly offering or to make a gift to your church.

Please return the response cards to us if you have not already done so, even if you are not able to increase your offering or provide a gift. Knowing that you are with us spiritually but perhaps not physically due to the pandemic is very important to me. I want you to know that we will remember the prayer intentions you write on the cards.

I thank you again for your consideration and for all that you do to help our parish proclaim the Good News of the Living Christ. Please pray for me as I will continue to pray for you.

Sincerely in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Yours in Christ,

*Father Paul*

Rev. Arlindo Da Silva