

St. Anthony of Padua Church
Dayton, Ohio

December 10, 2017

Dear parishioners,

On the opposite side of this paper you will find the annual financial summary for our parish. As you will see, we sustained a net loss of \$105,544. during the last fiscal year. That loss resulted from a major capital expenditure, specifically the replacement of the church roof. However, that loss was covered by money from our savings which had been held aside in anticipation of that major project. And regarding the new roof, you will recall that a significant part of that cost has been covered by the 20% "parish portion" of the donations which many of you so generously made to the Archdiocesan *One Faith, One Hope, One Love* Campaign in 2015.

So, the good news is that our operating expenses for 2016-17 were consistent with the prior year, and we ended the fiscal year in good shape. That was made possible by those of you who contribute generously on a regular basis to our Sunday collections.

However, the not-so-good news is that only a minority of our registered parishioners are giving significant financial support. This is the result of two problems. First of all, many of those registered in the parish no longer attend Sunday Mass on a regular basis. This is a disturbing trend throughout our Archdiocese, and most of the nation. It speaks to the issue of the "new evangelization" and the challenge we all have to help lukewarm Catholics recognize the truth and beauty of our Catholic way of life and become more active. Secondly, however, of those who do attend Mass here regularly many are not doing their fair share to support our parish. Our statistics, based on usage of collection envelopes, shows that 80% of the money given in our Sunday collections comes from only 33% of our parishioners. The median donation is only \$10. per week; and too many are giving little or nothing each week.

So, to those who are giving generously – and you know who you are! – I thank you on behalf of all your fellow parishioners. To those who are giving minimal amounts, I remind you that each Catholic does have a moral obligation to support his/her parish; and I urge you to prayerfully consider what you could contribute so as to do your fair share to support this wonderful parish.

Having just begun a new church year with this beautiful Season of Advent, I encourage each of us to "prepare the way of the Lord" by living our faith with greater fervor, spreading it with greater courage, and sharing it with greater generosity!

Blessed to be your pastor, I am



Rev. Greg Konerman