



*Our Lady of Lourdes Church*  
*PO Box 719*  
*528 E Stein Hwy*  
*Seaford, DE 19973*

## **Pastor's Perspective**

The Church is celebrating two big feasts back to back within a gap of ten days. For pastoral reasons, in our diocese, the Feast of the Ascension is moved to Sunday before Pentecost which gives us an opportunity to look at the link between these two and understand their significance in our life as Christians. Though the Ascension may appear to be the apparent end of the physical presence of Jesus in the world, it celebrates the graduation ceremony of Jesus at the end of the successful completion of the mission entrusted to him. While Pentecost celebrates the graduation ceremony of Apostles, the initiation of their mission electrified by the active presence of the Holy Spirit. The moving of Jesus to the Father (negative as it may appear) and the continuing the work of Jesus by the Holy Spirit marks a new phase in the life of the Apostles. The feasts call us to be on fire with the power of the Spirit and take our responsibility of proclaiming the Gospel to new heights.

### **Construction of New Parish Office and Rectory**

For over ten years we have been brooding over the idea of a new office building and Rectory together with an elevator facility to assist our parishioners who struggle to be part of the worshipping community in Church in spite of their physical ailments. Considering our need, the diocese has granted us permission to develop plans for construction. I dare to make loose comparison between the feasts we celebrate and our construction project. Time has come for the old building to return to its sources and be moved by the Spirit and put our hearts and minds together in making our dream come true. This will certainly be the beginning of a new phase in the life of the parish.

As a way forward I am re-activating the Master Planning Committee constituted by Fr. George Blasick before he was transferred, with a few additions. Congratulations to the new members (Tony Terracciano, Barbara Reed, and Matthew Zoller) added to the Parish Council. The Council can be assured of more work and meetings as we progress with the construction project.

### **Update of Parish Register**

The parish office had a number of setbacks in updating the parish register by way of multiple floods and computer crash. With the help of very generous volunteers, we have been trying to bring the data up to date. Please respond to the letters sent to you or come in person to the office if you have received a letter requesting information on your registration.

### **Annual Catholic Appeal Fund (ACA)**

The target set by the diocese for this year's ACA fund is \$4,347,000 of which our parish is to contribute \$ 64,000. You have been very generous in the past few years and we have a long history of doing better than we are supposed to do. The amount pledged to date is \$46,816. This amount has come from 184 of the 847 registered families. I encourage you, especially those who have not participated yet, to be generous even this year as this appeal is for a worthy cause. The priests can be taken as a model in this project. A total of \$54,845 were raised from the participation of 54 priests bringing the average gift to \$1015.65. The example of priests is like that of St. Paul who says, "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."

*Your Pastor*

*Fr. Clement Vadakkedath, C.Ss.R.*