



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

Taking our Past into the Future: Continuing the Journey

December 16, 2017

Dear Parishioners:

Our prayers and many months of long waiting for a response from the diocese on its final recommendations after the conclusion of the affordability study is coming to a happy ending as we are preparing to celebrate Christmas, the greatest gift to the world. **Permission is granted to begin fundraising in support of our building project.** Our Lady of Lourdes has a strong tradition of putting our whole heart and soul to the endeavors we undertake. We happily remember burning the mortgage on the parish hall within three years of its inauguration, rededication of renovated Church solely from our donations and rebuilding classrooms and refurbishing the Church basement within a few years after Church renovation. These are but a few examples of the generosity of you, the parishioners. Based on the above factors and your steady history of generosity, the diocese concluded that we are capable of realizing a future project amounting to 1.26 Million Dollars. The diocese also recommended to take up the building of priests' residence as a future plan because of the changing scenario. As you are aware, the Master Planning Committee developed the Master Plan taking into account the possibility of realizing the project in phases. Therefore it becomes as easy as a stroke of a pen on the schematics to focus on the offices, easier access to the Church and basement and the meet and greet area.

Thanks to the former pastors and a very diligent finance council, we have an investment of over \$600,000 accumulated from previous campaigns and careful managing of your weekly gifts. The finance council warns me that a portion of that must be kept aside for emergencies. This enables us to embark on the project with confidence and be certain of even happier ending. I am pleased to say that it will eliminate unnecessary financial burden on those of us who are living on a fixed income or are struggling with a slow financial recovery. The capital campaign committee is in the process of getting the pledge cards (with supporting material) ready to launch our capital campaign in February 2018. As we are approaching the end of the calendar year with potential tax law changes on the horizon, I suggest the following for your consideration as a legal way of getting tax credit:

1. The gift of appreciated stocks as a great way to donate to our upcoming capital campaign fund. We have a brokerage account with PNC bank which enables you to gift stocks directly.
2. Giving Endowment Gifts, Memorial and Tribute Gifts, Charitable Gift Annuities, Beneficiary Designation, Wills and Living Trust, or Real Estate.
3. Make use of our newly launched online giving through a software called ConnectNow Giving. Please visit our website: www.OLLSeaford.org, and click our online giving link.

Details on next page.

Please contact the **Parish Office or Louise Gay** for further information or any assistance.

Your Pastor

Fr. Clement Vadaḱḱedath, C.Ss.R.

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