



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

Pastor's Perspective

April 11, 2019

# Happy Easter

A Very Happy Easter to you. As we rejoice in Christ who died and rose for us, may we be given the gift of rejoicing with HIM in the life to come. I also pray that the death and RESURRECTION of Jesus continue to be a sign of life and hope for you and your family.

On this joyous occasion, I want to share with you some good news that are very definite signs of blessing on our parish.

1. **Kathryn Donati, daughter of Rob and Jennifer Donati**, is chosen to receive the St. Timothy National Award for outstanding young people from our parish. This is the highest recognition from the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry that a diocese can confer on a junior or senior high school youth who lives as a disciple of Christ and witnesses to faith by living the Gospel values.
2. **Taking Our Past Into The Future: Continuing The Journey** is moving forward with your prayers and support. Please find below updates from the Campaign Committee and the Master Planning Committee on the progress we have made so far.

Your Pastor

Fr. Clement Vadakkedath, C.Ss.R.

**Capital Campaign Update:** As the construction planning has progressed, so too has the funding campaign. We began our Capital Campaign in earnest in September 2018 and we are still receiving pledges as well as ongoing donations. To date we have received in excess of \$496,096.80 in pledges and donations from approximately 350 parish households. In addition, we are receiving cash donations (without names) through our monthly special offertory collection in each month. We have exceeded what the Diocese thought we would raise, and they now agree with us that we are in a sound position with our financial planning.

To meet the budget, which has increased along with the now known building costs, **we have set a target for our campaign of \$600,000.** To help meet this, we have reached out to our business and civic community through grant applications and requests for donations.

We have talked to many parishioners and know that some have delayed their pledge/donation until they see the beginning of construction; we hope the planned demolition within the next month and the naming of a contractor gives you what you need and you will now be ready to join with your fellow parishioners to ease the financial burden. We thank each and everyone of you for your support and continued prayers.



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Jean Edwards  
Capital Campaign Committee Chair

**Master Planning Committee Update:** The latest update on our New Building Project comes with some very positive news. To recap where we are in the process, the design has been finalized and approved by the various City, County and State officials. One final approval by the State Fire Marshall is pending. That drawing package was sent out for quotation to 7 contractors, with 5 submitting bids. Unfortunately, all of the bids were higher than we were hoping for. The master planning committee decided to do additional work with the two low bidders in attempt to determine the cost drivers and potential areas for saving. Both general contractors complied, and we identified a substantial number of savings areas to go forward with.

Based upon the cost analysis of the saving areas, the bid information received, the review of licenses and credentials and due diligence on references, we are pleased to announce that Gillis Gilkerson will be the general contractor chosen to execute our project. We have kicked off the final negotiations with Gillis in anticipation of contract signing.

In conjunction with the bidding effort, Father Clement, Jean Edwards and I had the opportunity to review the project status and the results of our fund-raising efforts with the Bishop's office. At that meeting, chaired by Vicar General Monsignor Steven Hurley, we received permission to move forward on the initial execution phase of the project which centers around the hazardous waste remediation, demolition of the existing rectory/office, site clearing, and backfilling in preparation of site for new construction. We anticipate this work happening within the next month.

We will return to see the Vicar General once we have the final contract negotiated and ready for approval prior to the actual construction work. That is anticipated to happen within the next few months.

We thank you for all your prayers and financial support over the past few years and ask that you consider pledging, if you have not yet done so, as the results of all our efforts are truly coming to fruition.

Gregory Morano  
Master Planning Committee Chair