



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

May 14, 2017

Dear Parishioners:

It is time for the parish to take our next step in the journey toward building a new Parish Office and Rectory; it will soon be time to make some major decisions. To help us in this process, we have formulated a short prayer to enlist the help of Our Lady of Lourdes in asking her son, Jesus, to guide us. I ask that you include this little prayer in your daily spiritual exercise.

God our Father, Your Son Jesus loved the Church and gave his life for our growth. Give us that same spirit of Sacrifice as we continue our journey to improve our parish complex. Our Lady of Lourdes, please ask your Son to instill in us that same love and deep commitment for our Church as we take steps to provide improved access to our beloved parishioners, an efficient workplace for our parish staff and ministries and a restful home for our devoted clergy. Mary, our Mother, we place this project under your watchful care and protection. Amen.

To further help us along our path, we have enlisted the help of our Diocese to measure our readiness. Mrs. Deborah Fols, Diocesan Development Director, will be conducting several activities for us over May/June: an affordability study (individual interviews) and several focus groups (open meetings). These have been mentioned in previous bulletins.

- ❖ First, a number of parishioners have been invited to meet with Mrs. Fols to share their opinions about the proposed building and also about the parish (affordability study). These will be confidential interviews and results will be summarized for the parish without any identifiers.
- ❖ Second, ALL parishioners are being encouraged to attend one or both **open meetings** (Focus Groups) to be held on Thursday May 18 at 7 PM **AND** Sunday, June 4th at 11 AM (after the 10 AM Mass) in the hall. Pizza and beverages will be served both times. During these meetings, Mrs. Fols will ask us to complete a simple survey – again in an attempt to gauge our readiness and to hear our confidential thoughts and opinions.

This is our parish and we want to make our future secure. Please give the current building plans your prayerful consideration; the building schematics are still on view in the hall and members of the committee are available to talk with you further, as am I.

Your Pastor,

Clement Vadakkedath, C.Ss.R.