

God's peace and joy be with you all!



It's almost been 2 full months since Fr. Vinner and I arrived at Our Lady Queen of Heaven. I know I speak for both of us when I state that we are so thankful for the welcome we have received from staff, all the volunteers in countless areas and so many parishioners welcoming us into their lives. I'm so grateful for how well you have served Fr. Vinner and included him in making him a part of your world.

Thanks for putting up with my absence from daily mass and having to sit down in liturgies. At this writing I still will have to keep my leg elevated and iced down as much as possible. I have overdone it a couple of times and in order to get back on track to be "normal" in four weeks, I have to take a few steps back in order to heal properly. My physical therapists and my surgeon just shake their heads when they see me. But I'm grateful for their care and reminders to dial it back and let my body heal instead of trying to speed up my healing on my own terms.

I'm also quite grateful for all the work and effort you have put into making Our Lady Queen of Heaven financially stable and strong. Many of you, for years, have been loyal to your financial support and gifts of time, labor, generous service, hours of work in every area of the parish. I'm grateful for regular contributors to our Stewardship for our weekly envelopes, online giving and contributions to our incredible St. Vincent de Paul Society in how they serve others. For that reason and frankly your openness and welcoming spirit, it is an easy transition in being assigned here by Archbishop Sartain.

But you know what, we are still short \$21,000 on our assessment as a parish for our Annual Catholic Appeal Goal. We have until April to reach this goal but typically, most of the monies for this annual campaign to help the Archdiocese come early on. Whatever we don't make for our total assessment of \$97,037, we have to pay whatever falls short to the Archdiocese. Did you know that just 18% of our parish has pledged to this essential funding drive?

If all of us in the 82% (about 460+ parish families) who haven't pledged, for the next 32 weeks, could give \$1.52 per week for the next 33 weeks, we'd make our goal. Another way to put it is those 82% gave a one-time check to the Annual Catholic Appeal for \$50.16, we'd meet our goal. Any monies over that total donated to the Appeal would come directly to us.

I recently learned that there has been a desire to build a grotto at this parish. The statue of Mary has been purchased and is in storage. I'd really like to finish this project and get this done. I promise that all monies over our goal once we get all of our pledges fulfilled will go to this worthwhile project that has been in stasis too long.

Please prayerfully consider making your pledge very soon. You all remain in my prayers every day so you can become even closer to Jesus through our blessed Catholic faith. Thank you for being so generous in so many areas of our parish life.

In God's great love, hope, and mercy,

Deacon Jim