



13 May 2021

Dear St. Francis Xavier Parishioners,

May the Lord richly bless all of you through the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima, whose apparitions began on this date in 1917. As we now are nearing the end of the fiscal year, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for all of the support that has been given to our parish during the past year. While COVID-19 is still present and we need to remain vigilant, we also are seeing remarkable progress in this pandemic and our parish is now moving closer and closer towards being able to fully engage its apostolic and missionary work. The financial support of parishioners has made this possible and is positioning us to do great work for the Lord and His people as we continue to open up our operations.

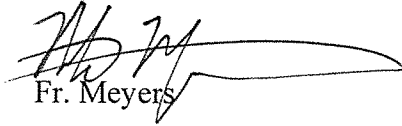
While we still have roughly seven weeks left in this fiscal year, we are currently sitting strong in relation to our budget. As of this writing, we have managed to keep our expenses \$66,640.99 less than what we had budgeted and have exceeded all of the fundraising goals for our school fundraisers this year, including bringing in over \$65,000 at our Spring Fever virtual event last month. Our collections are also performing strongly and it looks like we will be able to exceed last year's Sunday collection totals provided each of us continues to contribute between now and the end of June. Indeed, while it would take some level of sacrificial giving, it is not even outside the possibility that we could reach a total of \$1,000,000 in collections for the first time in our parish's history. We can make this milestone of \$1,000,000 in total Sunday collections by each of us giving \$500 between now and the end of June (this would equal \$70 a week between now and the end of June). In order to position us for a strong end to our fiscal year that gives us a healthy cash flow as we begin to resume more and more of our operations, I would like to invite each of us to take the next few days to review our own personal budgets to determine how much we can give to help us get close to the \$500 personal goal to help us reach \$1,000,000 together in our Sunday offering this year.

The Finance Council has been carefully and diligently reviewing our financial status and, based upon our review, we did vote to provide employees with a raise for the first time since 2018—a much deserved sign of support for the great work each of them does daily and often without fanfare. We are also currently reviewing some major projects that we know will require fundraising in the near future. Chief among these projects is the fact that our church's stained glass windows will need to be repaired in the next year as they are at a critical point where they will soon start to break and the cost of repair will go up exponentially if we do not act soon; we are finalizing our bids from contractors for review right now. Right alongside this need is the fact that our church's parking lot is failing and will need to be repaired to both keep water from rushing towards the church's foundation as well as to accommodate more parking as street parking will be limited with the building projects across the street. We currently have a general proposal that is being submitted to the City of Buffalo for their input before we put the project out for bid. Finally, we also know that the Education Center's HVAC system is quickly approaching the end of its reliable usefulness, which means a new system will need to be

installed that will be more energy efficient and help provide for the building for the next generation of students and families that use it for our school, faith formation, and other events.

In a short while, we will be able to have town halls and other events to discuss these larger projects more completely and I look forward to being able to work with all of you to help execute wise and prudent plans to address these infrastructure needs in our parish so as to better enable us to serve the missionary purpose of the Church. The stronger our operational cashflow is right now, the easier we will be able to take on these necessary future projects, so I again thank all of you for financially supporting our parish. As we continue to serve the Lord and His people, may Our Blessed Mother pray for each of us that we will answer her son's call to service.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Fr. Meyers', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fr. Meyers