

From the Pastor

Sunday, November 17, 2019

Having celebrated All Saints Day, we enter the month during which our nation celebrates Thanksgiving Day. I therefore take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support of SLKF.

This is also the time of year for the international **#iGIVECATHOLIC** initiative, in which we participated last year. It is a creative program to help institutions like SLKF grow into the future. This year, 2019, **Giving Tuesday is December 3rd, (Tuesday after Thanksgiving)**. **But, WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING EARLY-BIRD DONATIONS.**

The #iGIVECATHOLIC method consists of asking for minimum donation of \$25 to the institution of your choice, in this case **St. Louis King of France Parish (ours in Metairie, rather than the cathedral in New Orleans)**.

- Electronic #iGIVECATHOLIC donations begin on November 18th, but early-bird, non-internet donations, can be given anytime;
- If you are not comfortable with the internet, donations may be given through your regular collection contributions, labeled "#iGIVECATHOLIC";
- As always, donations may also be mailed to the parish office (1609 Carrollton Ave. Metairie, LA 70005), labeled "#iGIVECATHOLIC".

Here are some of our hopes for the FUTURE of SLKF, in terms of MINISTRY & SPIRITUALITY & caring for YOUR FACILITIES, with estimated costs:

- Starting a CYO Program: \$12,000 per year
- Expanding CCD for all grade levels: \$15,000 per year
- Young Adult/Family Spirituality Programs: \$6,000 per year
- Canopy for Front of Church: \$25,000
- Refurbish Church façade: \$6,805.00
- Refurbish (replace as needed) Church pews & strip/wax floors: \$9,000
- Landscaping Church Grounds: \$9,000

Here is a sample of needed work on YOUR FACILITIES already paid for:

- Grounds keeping: \$9,242.00/year
- Electrical/Air Conditioning/Plumbing work (completed): \$13,180.52
- Utilities (water, gas, electricity): \$21,880.28
- Insurance (Property/Casualty): \$81,659.00
- Flood Insurance: \$37,586.74
- Security upgrade (cameras, locks): \$6,464.98
- Termite/Insect/Rodent intrusions: \$1,292.00

This partial list pertains to the physical plant, and does not include parish paid for the *Clarion Herald* last fiscal year, or the \$21,497.04 its Parish Share of Archdiocesan ministries last fiscal year.

I am asking for your increased financial assistance in fulfilling these needs. I choose to do so through the \$25 or more #iGIVECATHOLIC, or similar collections.

By way of encouragement, this year we have **TWO SURPRISE** gifts witnessed in twenty-one years of priesthood:

First:

Recently, you may have seen in the news, as well as in the school, the "Man/Woman/Child of God" initiative, which our school participant Demario Davis. We thank the school principal, Pam Development Director, Ashlie Louis, and all the faculty, families, and parishioners for making that inspiring, public, declaration of faith. The school parish, forming the Catholic adults of the future. SLKF parish and school are **OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH!**

Second:

SLKF School is kicking-off the 2019 #iGIVECATHOLIC with a bang! Our school has been forming Catholics since September 8, 1953. I thank our Principal, Pam Schott, for her leadership in bringing this tradition into the present. Her commitment to the unity of St. Louis Parish and School. All of our graduates except one have included parochial schools. More often than not, school is self-sustaining, but also HELPS THE PARISH PAY THE BILLS. Many families contribute money to pay the bills. At SLKF, the situation is the reverse. SLKF is self-sustaining, but also HELPS THE PARISH PAY THE BILLS. Many families contribute money to pay the bills.

As always, whether you are able to give or not, please continue to support the parish and school, that we may be worthy servants of you all.

St. Louis King of France, pray for us

Father Mark