

Pastor's Column

“Money doesn't grow on trees, you know”

My father has been deceased for over ten years. I distinctly remember two things he said over and over again regarding money: (1) “Close the door and don't air-condition Bonnabel Blvd” (we lived on Bonnabel); and (2) “Turn out the lights when you leave a room; money doesn't grow on trees, you know.” I can still hear these words in my sleep. Now that I am Pastor and responsible for the financial well-being of our parish and school, I hear myself saying to others: (1) “Close the door and don't air-condition Metairie Road”; and (2) “Turn out the lights when you leave a room; money doesn't grow on trees, you know.” I have become my father!

In the past year as pastor, I have learned first-hand that it takes an enormous amount of money to operate a parish, church and school. There are salary and benefit expenses, significant utility costs, and recurring expenses for office supplies and equipment, repair and maintenance of facilities, landscaping and groundskeeping, campus security, liturgy and music, and the operation of the spiritual, social and ministry activities of our parish. (*NOTE: Our staff is reviewing the charges of every supplier and service provider to make sure we are getting the best possible economic deal.*)

As I did six months ago in February, I take this opportunity to thank all who support our parish financially on a regular basis through envelope usage, the loose collection and Faith Direct (which provides a monthly income even during vacation time and storm season). I know that giving money is a sacrifice. Thank you for your sacrifice that enables us to fulfill the mission of Jesus to spread the gospel.

I also take this opportunity to thank all the organizations, individuals and families who have made *particular* donations for projects and services, including donations for the poor, for plant upgrades, renovation work, stained glass windows, artwork, vestments, liturgical vessels, social events, tree trimming, gates and fencing, water fountains, and so much more. Without these special gifts, we could not provide our current level of services.

In conclusion, thank you for your financial support of our parish. Please continue to be generous in your giving. If possible, help us make up the deficit of the slow summer months. Please consider using Faith Direct in your giving (see info on page 4 of this bulletin). And know it is ingrained in me to understand: “Money doesn't grow on trees.”

God bless,
Fr. Joe