



November 22nd, 2020

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

I would like to take this time to speak with you regarding the situation of staffing here in the parish. I acknowledge that some have been concerned about this situation and I want to thank them for their care and support.

As we know, the income of parishes throughout the Diocese has gone down because of the COVID pandemic and the reduced occupancy in our churches. The Diocese stopped collecting parish assessments so that all parishes would have money in the parish bank account.

We had to temporarily lay-off some of the staff throughout the Diocese in order to cover all of our parish expenses as a result of a 20-40% reduction in parish revenue.

In budgeting for 2021, the Diocese has asked all parishes to only assume 70% of average income from 2017-2019. The Diocese also reduced the TIA for 2021 by 30%. The Parishes and the Diocese will need to watch all of our expenses for 2021 so that we can live within our means.

Compensation in parish operations is where we spend the most. The Diocese asked that parishes only allocate 30 – 38% of their revenue in 2021 for compensation so that we can afford to cover other areas of the parish expense while maintaining a balanced budget.

Just like families who have had to adjust their expenses with reduced income, the parishes are also asked to live within the means so that we will be in a better financial position in the coming years.

In our parish, this means three things:

1. that we are permanently laying off several staff in order for us to be able to afford parish operations even with the reduced income,
2. that we will be opening a new position that will allow for minimal staff but greater coverage of duties and responsibilities for the needs of the parish in 2021,
3. and that we are offering as much support as we can to our staff knowing that these are difficult times.

No one wants to be in this position. We did not expect ourselves to be in this position. Therefore, I ask that we pray for one another and reach out to one another. I know that we will get through these challenges together.

I would like to express my gratitude to the staff for their contributions and for their understanding. We will always cherish the work they have done for the parish throughout all these years.

I also thank all of you parishioners for your understanding, caring concern, ongoing support, and prayers. The strength of our parish lies in all of you, not in any one leader alone. Thank you for listening. God bless you all.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Ignatius Tran