

July 1, 2020

Dear Donor,

May the love and peace of God be with you.

It has been twenty years since a group of dedicated parishioners went to their pastor for permission to build an activity center/gymnasium on the lot adjacent to the St. Catherine of Siena Parish Center. After 20 years and three fundraising campaigns, the decision has been made the project has not garnered the financial support necessary to be a viable project. In the meantime, our spiritual community and buildings of our Parish suffered a great decline in numbers, participation and physical condition.

Time has changed; demographics has changed; needs have changed; and we have new realities and needs at St. Catherine of Siena Parish and School. Here are some of them:

- In the last 50 years, our Sunday Mass attendance had gone down significantly from 1,700 people to 450-500 individuals in 2017. However, we have begun to see an increase in Sunday Mass attendance thanks to our new faith formation/confirmation/ ministry initiatives.
- Total contribution and participation in the life of the Church was increasingly low in the last 20 years.
- St. Catherine School attendance went down from a full house to 126-136 students, including pre-school. Our school is now a part of the Diocese's Lumen Christi Academies. Thanks to Mrs. Jessica Griswold's leadership and school community support, the School is making great progress.
- Major facilities (Church, School, Hall, Rectory, Parish Office, Youth Shack) need repairs.
- In 2018, we committed ourselves to *Divine Renovation in conjunction with Five Years of Grace*, bringing our parish community from a maintenance to a missionary Church.

Based on the presented above realities, with careful discernment, prayer, consultation and support from the Diocese, we believe that it is prudent for us to officially end the activity center/gymnasium building project and focus our energy and resources to rebuild His Church, our community. We thank you for your sacrificial giving to these campaigns.

If you would like more information regarding this decision, please visit the St. Catherine of Siena Parish website @ stcmz.org. We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those individuals, groups, ministries, parishioners, families and friends, both living and deceased, who worked, volunteered, prayed and contributed to this project. We understand the very difficult decision for many of us who had so much hope for it. We offer our prayers for you and your families. Since the project is ended, the donors, followed by leadership of St. Catherine of Siena Parish need to determine what to do with the funds generously donated. There are two opportunities for donors:

1. Reclaim (i.e. seek refund): Donors reclaim donations made to these campaigns. We are happy to honor this request.
2. Repurpose your donations to the current needs of the Parish community. These funds would be used to maintain and repair the existing structures we have. (Youth Shack, School, Parish Hall, Parish office, Church, Rectory, Cemetery). The estimated cost for our needed improvements and repairs exceeds \$1,000,000.

It is the donor's contribution; therefore, it is his/her decision to reclaim or to give the Parish permission to repurpose the contributed funds. We are happy to honor each donor's wish.

The purpose of this letter is to confirm our records of your donation to one or more of the campaigns known as PACE I, PACE II, and Fulfilling the Promise. Please review your donation history listed below and confirm your records match what we have on file. If your records are different than our figures, please contact Karen Glen, Bookkeeper at the Parish office, by calling (925) 228-2230 Ext. 1004 or emailing stcatherineparish@stcmtz.org.

Your cooperation in confirming your donation history will help us to proceed in the next step of the process.

Importantly, you will find enclosed a Donor Response Form. Please complete this form and return to the Parish office. If your records indicate additional donations, please include copies of supporting documentation. Each one of us at St. Catherine of Siena Parish is involved in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our mutual sharing of ourselves and our resources is a sign of our 'Yes' to the call to help spread the Gospel. We thank you for your willingness to be a part of our mission.

Sincerely,
Fr. Anthony Huong Le
St. Catherine of Siena Parish Leadership