

Parish Share Program Appeal

Weekend of Feb 29 and March 1, 2020

Parish Share Program Appeal by Walt Haglund, member of the Parish Finance Council, 7:45PM Mass at Sacred Heart

Good evening.

My name is Walt Haglund. I am a member of Sacred Heart's Finance Council and a member of our parish for over 50 years. I volunteered to talk to you tonight about the 2020 Parish Share Program. I have seen a lot of changes in our Parish over the last 50 years, and I am here tonight to ask for your financial assistance to support our Parish and what it does for all of us.

As we now have begun Lent, we must draw nearer to Christ. We need to keep our faith in the Lord and thank him for our blessings. He gives us the strength to get through these difficult and trying times in the Church. We need to support our Parish and affirm our beliefs. We all may have thought at one time or another, "Let the Diocese bail itself out, we don't want them to use my donations to pay for their sins." Parish Share is NOT a "bailout program". The money is used for the educational, spiritual and social service needs of the elderly, the youth, the disabled, and our families in need.

The Parish Share Program benefits our Parish and our Parishioners. Each year every parish is assessed an amount to support the programs and activities throughout the Diocese. Every year our Parish has raised enough funds to reach our assessed amount, and more! In some years, we have more than doubled the assessed amount. This year our assessed amount is \$102,268 which is roughly \$18,000 less than last year's assessment.

In 2018, 383 families and individuals gave over \$291,000 to the Parish Share Program. In 2019, only 293 families and individuals gave approximately \$142,000. I understand why! However, this was a loss of \$142,000 which hurt our Parish, not the Diocese. We met our assessed amount, but there was only a limited surplus over the roughly \$120,000 assessment. I feel confident that we will raise the \$102,268 this year, but we need much more.

You may ask where does the extra money go? It doesn't go anywhere. It stays right here at Sacred Heart! The more money we raise, goes to support our parish's operation. We have a short fall each year in our operating income and we use these funds to balance our budget.

Sunday collections do not cover all the costs to keep this magnificent church running. Sunday collections in 2019 were approximately \$616,700 or \$46,400 per month. However, it cost us over \$790,400 last year for utilities, insurance, taxes, maintenance upkeep, programs, activities, materials, and staff salaries and benefits. This does not include any capital improvements to the church, school and activities building. There was a budget shortfall of approximately \$173,700. This means we need to raise an extra \$200,000 this year, over and above the Parish Share assessment. Can it be done? Yes!

We have done it in the past, except last year.

I need to point out that only 78 donors gave 90% of the total funds raised. We need everyone's financial participation to balance the budget.

The monthly envelopes now include a separate envelop for Parish Share. There are also Parish Share envelopes at the ends of each pew. Included in the 2020 Parish Share information that Father Mele sent out to each family and individual registered member, is a pledge card. Please fill out the pledge card. If you are not registered in the Parish, please consider joining. In the meantime, please use the Parish Share envelopes in the pews. You should write your name and address on the envelop so we can send you a thank you and a yearend statement of your contributions.

To all of you who contribute and support the Parish Share, we thank you and we appreciate your help. For those who have not given in the past, or who did not give last year, please consider making a donation this year. I can't tell you how much your financial and spiritual support is needed at Sacred Heart.

I will be in the back of the church after mass if anyone has any questions or needs additional information.

Thank you and may God bless you all.