

## **Building Project Update 8/11/2019**

Clonmelians,

Several parishioners asked for a copy of the reflection given in my homily on the Lord's Prayer. I'm happy to provide that to you. I cannot take credit for this work but I'm not certain now who the original author was.

"I cannot say 'our' if I live only for myself.

I cannot say 'Father' if I do not approach God with a child-like trust.

I cannot say 'who art in heaven' if I am not investing some treasure there right now.

I cannot say 'Hallowed be thy name' if I am careless with that name.

I cannot say 'Thy kingdom come' if I am not working to actualize it in the here and now.

I cannot say 'Thy will be done' if I am resentful of that will for me at this moment.

I cannot say 'on earth as it is in heaven' if I don't look on heaven as my future home.

I cannot say 'Give us our daily bread' if I am over-anxious about tomorrow.

I cannot say 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us' if I am waiting to settle a score with someone.

I cannot say 'Lead us not into temptation' if I deliberately and continuously put myself into situations where I know I'll be tempted.

I cannot say 'Deliver us from evil' if I am not prepared to pray as though everything depends on God and work as though everything depends on me."

### **Building project statistics**

As we collect data for the building project I would like to pass along those numbers to you. Today I'm sharing the number of families and individuals who are registered members of our parish and the trends since 1961, the earliest year we have statistical information on this demographic.

In 1961 (58 years ago) we had 68 families registered in the parish.

In 1994 (25 years ago) we had 173 families registered in the parish.

In 2009 (10 years ago) we had 167 families registered in the parish.

In 2016 we had 207 families registered in the parish.

Currently we have 209 families registered in the parish.

The growth of the parish has not exploded, but has continued to steadily grow over the past 60 years. Projected future growth has not been determined. Those numbers will be shared as we gather them.

We also have (according to October Mass counts) 368 individuals attending Mass each Sunday. This is down slightly from 5 years ago (405). Reasons for the drop in attendance are various and would include who the pastor is, children attending Catholic schools (which draw families toward those parishes), accessibility issues, Mass time availability, and stylistic choices (music, homilies, liturgical choices). Overall, our Mass attendance has been stable, which seems attributable, among others things, to your welcoming and communal atmosphere.

Fr. Joe