



Faith, Hope & Courage

Pastor Says “Thank You!” As Offertory Recovery Program Continues to Get Responses

Father Erwin extends his heartfelt gratitude to all the parishioners who responded thus far to *Faith, Hope and Courage*, the parish Offertory recovery program. It continues to receive responses from parishioners as we try to fill the gap in parish income brought on Covid-19, its restrictions on Mass attendance, physical distancing, etc.

As of September 1, 149 families had returned commitment cards or responded online via the Our Lady of Grace Parish website (ourladyofgracefl.org). These families represent about 17 percent of registered parishioners. The goal of *Faith, Hope and Courage* is responses from 100 percent of parishioners.

Responses thus far have varied. They include offers to pray for the parish; one-time donations; new, increased and renewed weekly and monthly Offertory donations; and requests for prayers. One-time cash donations totaled \$16,855.

It all started with the endorsement of the pastoral council, a letter from Bishop Parkes, announcements by Father Erwin during his homilies the weekend of August 15-16, and a continuous stream of reminders before Mass by a special cohort of eloquent parishioners. Those reminders will continue for the next few weeks.

Another team has been busy trying to reach every family that responded. These volunteers want to say “Thank You” on behalf of the Pastor and generally determine that all is well in the household or if help is needed.

Meanwhile, if you have not yet responded to *Faith, Hope and Courage*, please do so. If you cannot locate the card sent to you in the mail, ask a hospitality minister for one or contact the parish office, 352-746-2144. Or, to respond online, go to OurLadyofGraceFL.org, scroll down to “*Faith, Hope and Courage*,” click on **Digital Commitment Card**, and it will pop up. You also can reach Faith, Hope and Courage via a link on the parish Facebook page.