

A Pastor's Perspective

November 8, 2020 Bulletin



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11 – Each year, our nation celebrates Veterans Day, which is a wonderful opportunity to honor, thank, and pray for all those men and women who have served in our Armed Forces in defense of our nation and liberties. The United States Armed Forces is comprised of the Army (founded June 14, 1775); Navy (October 13, 1775); Marine Corps (November 10, 1775); Coast Guard (August 4, 1790); Air Force (September 18, 1947); and the recently founded Space Force (December 20, 2019). Currently, the United States has approximately 2.2 million active and reserve military personnel. In addition, our nation has nearly 19,000,000 living veterans. We thank you and we salute you.

Annual Financial Report for St. Paul the Apostle Parish, All Saints Catholic School, & Mount Pleasant Catholic Cemetery – This weekend, parishioners can access the annual financial report (for the year ended June 30, 2020) for our parish, school, and cemetery. Copies are available through the parish bulletin and on our website. This annual report serves three purposes:

- (1) It presents parish leadership an opportunity to be transparent by giving you an accounting of your donations and how they have been spent in support of the parish, its mission, and ministries;
- (2) It provides me, as your pastor, an occasion to say, ***“Thank you very much”*** for your gracious generosity, both for your monetary contributions as well as for the time and talent you share; and
- (3) It prompts all of us, albeit gently, to thank the Lord for the many blessings He continually bestows upon us, and to invite us all to pray about how we will support our parish during this year.

Some significant challenges are reflected in the operating losses that were incurred by all three areas of activity (for example, the impact of Covid-19 on the number of attendees at Mass, the cost of several capital projects, the fluctuating numbers of students in our Catholic school, the challenge of cremations and fewer burials in our cemetery, etc.). Even though the parish remains financially stable, we must never take for granted our commitment to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us. Please review the report carefully and let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Many thanks to the members of the Parish Finance Council, especially Mr. Jason Gould, Chair, for their commitment to overseeing the proper administration of the parish, ensuring funding for its mission, and providing sound financial counsel to Fr. Murray (past) and to me (present). I am grateful for their service and look forward to working with them to strengthen the parish’s financial position and outlook so that St. Paul the Apostle Parish will continue to obtain and manage responsibly the resources necessary to carry on its Christ-centered activities.

Please know that I am humbled by and grateful for your unfailing goodness and ongoing generosity to the parish—thank you!

Peace and blessings,

Msgr. Andrew