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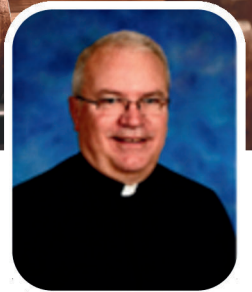
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Chris Virruso



FROM THE DESK OF FR. RICH

Today is the Sixth Sunday of Easter.

Last week we heard how the Christian assembly in Jerusalem chose seven of their number to minister to the Greek-speaking Christians who lived there. Philip was one of the seven. Today we find him in Samaria, about 60 miles north of Jerusalem, fearlessly proclaiming the good news of Jesus and experiencing astounding results.

Our second reading, the first letter of Peter was written to Christians whose pagan neighbors continually questioned and ridiculed them about their faith. Since most of the Christians were low-born or slaves, their neighbors couldn't understand why they were so joyful and hopeful. Today's passage offers pastoral advice and encouragement.

Recently a parishioner asked if I could give an update regarding the progress of the Generation to Generation Campaign regarding both the response from the parish as well as the projects the campaign was intended to address.

Let me first say that our parish's response was remarkable in that we were able to reach the almost 1.5-million-dollar goal set for us by the archdiocese. If you recall, the return to our parish is 50% of all that we raise. That would mean, if everyone follows through on their pledge our parish would receive a return of almost \$750,000. As of this writing, our parish has received \$306,849.58. These funds are currently being held in our parish's archdiocesan savings account.

The projects that these funds were to be used for are: the replacement of or parish parking lots, the replacement of the St. Eugene church boilers, church roof repairs at St. Eugene and new church flooring for St. Eugene.

Each of these projects has thus far either been looked into or is in the process of having preliminary work done in preparation for their start.



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

St. Eugene Church
Mondays 4 - 6 pm.
Benediction at 5:45 pm.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

In order to fully partake in the Mass, the Priest should be the last one in and the first one out.

Dress Appropriately ~ remember, you are in God's house.

For example, we have already paid \$5,000 for soil boring tests throughout the parish parking lots over a year ago. Just last month we paid \$25,250.00 to have the entire parking lots surveyed. You should also be aware that the first bid we received over a year and a half ago to re-do our parking lots was for almost \$2 million dollars! As you can see this project alone would take the entire \$750,000 of our return from the Generation-to-Generation Campaign funds.

Currently we have signed contracts to have our two church boilers replaced with one more efficient boiler. This work will begin in the next few months. The cost for this project is \$171,000.

The church flooring issue has also been looked into and has proven to be more of a challenge than planned as we will more than likely be dealing with asbestos issues that will also be much more costly than expected.

I would also like to inform our parish community that unexpected expenses have also come up - the condenser unit for the air-conditioning system at Our Lady, Mother of the Church is in the process of being replaced. This unexpected cost is \$235,000. You should also know that last year's total annual revenue from Our Lady, Mother of the Church, amounted to only \$209,877. As you can see, this one project alone is costing more than its total annual income.

We have also found out that the school air-conditioning condenser also needs to be replaced as well as the automated system of controlling the temperatures in all the classrooms and working spaces. This system has not been working for many years. This project alone is going to cost close to \$1 million dollars. And these are projects that were not budgeted for! Our facilities are getting older and older and with this aging comes the cost of replacing many of our HVAC systems. Let no one say that our parish does not continue to invest in the sustaining of St. Eugene school even though our parish has had no jurisdiction over the school for the past five years. In addition to these and so many other school flooring, plumbing, and roofing repairs over the past few years alone, our parish has invested tens of thousands of dollars in school maintenance and repairs. Not to mention the over \$36,000 the school receives annually from the generosity of our parishioners through the monthly church support collection. Perhaps it is about time to ask the question... What investment is the school making in our parish that has for decades continued to sustain and enable it to operate? This, certainly, is a topic worthy of future discussion.

I hope this information was helpful for those who are wondering where we are at with both the campaign as well as some of the projects that are still in the process of getting done in addition to all the unexpected expenses that are part of keeping facilities as large as ours up and running. You might also be asking the question...where is the money coming from to pay for all these projects? Quite simply, from our savings that are being spent at an alarming rate.

P.S. If you might have wondered where the funds that you provide to the Parish Repairs and Maintenance Collection go, hopefully this article has answered that question.

Wishing you all a great week ahead.

Fr. Rich Yanos