

## My dear parishioners

Greetings. As you know, I am helped by the Finance Committee that reviews all of the finances of our parish in a meticulous way. Their commitment and dedication to regular monthly meetings are very much appreciated. They are patient and discuss the financial issues of our parish seriously and help me to make wise decisions for the betterment of our parish. Special thanks to them all.

I also would like to express my sincere thanks to all of you for your support throughout the past year of 2017. Without your support and help, I don't think we would have kept our parish operating in a manner that enabled praying, gathering and celebrating respectively. We are privileged to have such a beautiful church to worship our God and encounter Christ in the Eucharist.

As you see in our financial report prepared by the Finance committee, the parish showed a modest operating profit in FY 2017. We are able to do this by your generous contributions during the past year and also by reducing unnecessary expenses. As an administrator, I have been trying my best for the past a year and half to avoid all unnecessary spending while keeping the facilities in excellent condition. Also, our payroll is kept under control by reducing the need for visiting priests to say masses and perform other sacraments while our small staff works efficiently to keep the parish running smoothly.

I should express my gratitude to our parishioners who volunteer their time and talents to help our parish thrive and in many cases reduce our expenses by performing necessary jobs on their own time. I continue to encourage you to volunteer on a weekly or monthly basis whether it is helping to keep the church and other facilities clean and tidy or by participating in the ministries and programs of this parish. We have been blessed with wonderful volunteers to help in the religious education of our children, but we are always in need of more.

Our Lord Jesus speaks in the Gospel of Matthew (25:14-30) about the parable of talents. The master in the parable commends those two servants who multiplied master's money; they were considered good and faithful; they were rewarded with increased responsibilities in their master's service and both were invited to share in their master's joy. I believe that we all have responsibility in the taking care of this parish, not just for ourselves and for our use alone but also for our children and grandchildren. So we need to maintain our parish as much as we can and also develop them for the betterment of our future parishioners. Keeping the future in mind, the Parish council and Finance committee are drawing up plans to expand our church, hall and parish. As you may have noticed in our previous week's bulletin, one of our parishioners (family) has donated a piece of land behind the hall to our parish, which we are planning to utilize for classrooms and parking. We are early in this process and expect to hear more on the subject in upcoming months. Once again, I applaud everyone for your valuable support both financially and spiritually. Let us continue to pray for one another.

God bless Fr. Albert