



## ***Saint John XXIII Roman Catholic Church***

*Archdiocese of Winnipeg*

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### STATEMENT

To: The Community of Saint John XXIII Parish

From: The Parish Finance Council

Date: December 17, 2023 – The Third Sunday of Advent

Re: Capital Campaign – Building God’s Home Fund

Dear Parishioners,

At Sunday liturgies for this Third Sunday of Advent “Gaudete Sunday”, the lay trustees of our parish, Loris Vendramelli and William Gould, are providing the congregation with another update on our loan arrangement with the Trustees of the RCAW Inc., the status of our current pledge drive, and potential next steps towards paying off the principal sum of \$500,000.00 CDN together with the requisite interest. On behalf of the Parish Finance Council, we also are providing this written statement for the record highlighting the content of the message Loris and William will be conveying in a verbal manner at Masses this weekend.

The members of our Parish Finance Council had a meeting on December 12, 2023 during which we did our best to thoroughly review and discuss our current situation. First of all, we want to sincerely thank parishioners for their prayerful, thoughtful, and heartfelt commitment which has been demonstrated via the pledges to the capital campaign received thus far. To date, we have received pledges from parishioners totalling just over \$166k. Although there are some exceptions, most have indicated that they will be submitting their contributions over the next five years. We are deeply moved by this commitment! It's encouraging to see a good number of individual parishioners and families contribute to the pledge drive. This is a healthy sign for our parish. On this Gaudete Sunday of rejoicing, this is something for all of us to be grateful for and to joyfully celebrate!

However, \$166k still indicates a great shortfall from the total \$500k loan outstanding. In light of this gap in our fundraising efforts, the members of the Parish Finance Council after prayer, discernment, and discussion with the Archdiocese, have unanimously decided to recommend proceeding with a sale of the parish rectory (i.e. priest’s residence). Barring an unexpected windfall in the coming days and/or substantial further pledges, at this juncture we believe this is

the best way to raise the further funds we need to close the gap. This also will allow us to provide the proceeds from this sale directly towards the loan without delay and thereby reduce the principal and corresponding interest.

Although the possibility of selling the rectory is something that has been discussed several times over recent years, please know that the decision to do so has not been taken lightly. Nevertheless, if we proceed with selling the rectory, the Archdiocese reminds us that, if in the future we have a pastor who does not own his residence, the parish will be responsible for providing future pastors with a place of residence through renting.

Again, we thank everyone for their understanding and continued commitment to “Building God’s Home” here in Saint John XXIII Parish. Ultimately, we have much to be grateful for and we thank the Spirit of God for continuing to guide our parish community. The members of our Parish Finance Council believe we have a strong and realistic plan to address the outstanding loan. Also, to be absolutely clear, we are confident that the Parish of Saint John XXIII will be here for many years to come.

As circumstances permit, please know that our Pastor, Father Robert Polz, and our trustees, Loris Vendramelli and William Gould, are available and willing to answer any questions you may have. You may approach any one of them after Mass or at another mutually convenient time.

Saint John XXIII, pray for us!