

Dear Parishioners,

We are very blessed here at St. John Vianney to have a faithful Church. I am honored to be a part of this Church and I am thankful for each and every one of you. People say a Church is more than a building, it's a community of believers. Christ even tells us where two or more are gathered in His name, He is there. A church is, however, also a building. It is our faith home where we gather to hear the Good News, share in the sacraments, and begin our work to fulfill our commission to make disciples. Today, our faith home needs repairs. We need everyone's help to ensure that our building is around for generations to come so our Church continues to be a place for so many to call home.

Before I share how you can help, I want to share how we came to this point and what we can do about it. In 2020, our grounds crew started noticing specific cracks in our pre-cast concrete. We asked JP Cullen, the firm who built the Church, to come and assess the situation. As they pulled the concrete back in the areas with the most damage, they found rust forming on the steel beams due to years of moisture seeping between the concrete and beams where the sealant had failed.

JP Cullen recommended we have Angus-Young, the original architects, assess the beams so we could better understand what may need to be done. In their findings, they shared that some of the beams needed to be reinforced to ensure the structural integrity of the building. After discussing this with our Parish and Finance Councils, we decided it was important to move forward with these repairs and we were going to need an infusion of funds to cover the costs.

Once we agreed to consider a campaign, we discussed additional projects that may need to be done over the next 5 years so we could anticipate future needs and address them all at once. These additional projects include:

- Fixing the roofs over the south parish office building and Marian Hall, both of which will be altered for other parts of the project making this the most efficient time to address them
- Repairing and restoring our beautiful stained-glass windows
- Replacing the water heater and HVAC controls that serve both the school and the church
- Replacing the HVAC on top of Marian Hall
- Repairing or replacing the damaged floor of the sanctuary
- Resealing/caulking around the school building to avoid future damage

Now I am coming to you, our faithful parishioners, to seek your help. Over the course of the next week, if you have not already done so, you will receive an invitation to support the campaign in the mail. Please take a moment to review the materials and pray on what you are being asked to consider. While you may or may not be able to help at the level requested, it is important for all of us to do our part, and I am excited to see what God has in store for our parish. You will hear more about the ***Forward in Faith*** campaign in the coming weeks. For now, I would like to personally ask you to do four things to ensure our campaign's success:

- Become a volunteer. We need as many families involved as possible for an effort of this magnitude
- Listen to our volunteers when they speak with you on my behalf about the campaign and

prayerfully consider their request for your support

- Please consider making a sacrificial gift to this important effort for our parish and school
- Pray for the success of this campaign. Campaign prayer cards are in the pews, and I would encourage everyone to say this prayer often.

The *Forward in Faith* campaign is a tremendous opportunity for each of us to more fully participate in our call to grow our parish and broaden our reach as a community of faith. In the coming weeks I will continue to keep you updated on our progress and ways that you can stay engaged with this very important initiative. As a community entering into our *Forward in Faith* campaign, each week we will be praying the campaign prayer before the final blessing at Mass. More information will be posted on our social media platforms and parish website.

Thank you for your consideration and God Bless!

Fr. Paul