

# From the Pastor



## Funding the Future . . . Fulfilling the Past

**T**his is the slogan for the 2018 Stewardship Drive. We are kicking off the Stewardship Drive this week. Due to various reasons, the stewardship of treasure for this year was delayed and did not start until after we started the year. However, we would like to get a head start for next year—2018. The financial budget is being prepared for the coming year, and this Stewardship Drive will help us to plan and allocate the finances needed for various ministries.

You have been very generous with the material resources for which God has blessed you. Your response to the last stewardship of treasure drive—“Renew, Restore and Rejoice”—was very encouraging. We were able to do what we planned—and more—because of your generosity. However, we still have a way to go. Out of 1,672 households, 902 support St. Francis Parish financially (for which we have records.) If you are not one of those 902 households, please consider supporting the parish financially in gratitude for what God has blessed you.

The “Funding the Future . . . Fulfilling the Past” Campaign this year has a two-way approach to our financial needs. **The first** is to fund the operating expenses of 2018, and **the second** is to ask your generosity toward debt retirement. At this time, we ask you to keep your support to the operating expenses next year the same as you’ve been tithing this year. Over and above your support for the operating expenses, I appeal to your generosity to make a pledge for the next five years toward debt retirement.

If 500 households out of 1,672 contribute \$1,000 per year toward the debt retirement over and above their regular tithing, we will be debt-free in five years. Having been here for more than a year, I believe there are at least 500 households who are able to make this sacrifice. I know that it is a huge sacrifice for some. But nothing happens and nothing can be achieved without sacrifices. While all may not be able to give \$1,000 a year, there are others who may be able to give more. Every sacrifice counts—however small that may be. I will be making this sacrifice myself. There are things that I will need to go without in my personal budget to make this happen. However, I am happy to do it, knowing that our efforts will help us to get to where we need to be as a St. Francis Catholic Community.

In the coming weeks, you will hear more about it and receive a package in the mail. Please take some time to pray to see how God wants you to share His blessings. Kindly say the Stewardship Prayer every day at home. “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have; God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind” Hebrew 13:16.

—Father Jose