

September 14, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

I am writing to you today to announce the beginning of the grand annual collection appeal. It has been a rough year for all of us. With the Corona Virus pandemic, I also realize that finances may be stretched. This is also true for our parish. We usually do well with our collections in the summer. That helps us get through the winter months. However due to the decline in Mass attendance this was not a reality.

I ask you to be generous, as you can, during this grand annual campaign. This will help us to pay our parish expenses during the coming winter months and will allow us to keep up with the much needed repairs that need to be accomplished, for example our ceiling above the choir loft at St. Margaret's just to name one.

During the months of the pandemic, while we were closed, we were busy not only keeping you all in prayer but renovating and preserving our worship spaces. This includes painting St. Mary's church. With the help of volunteers, who diligently spent their time working to make St. Mary's more beautiful. The grounds of St. Margaret's were meticulously taken care of, again this was done, with the loving care of our volunteers.

We have recently regained our Parish Center at St. Margaret's after the Diocese of Fall River announced the closing of St. Margaret Regional School. The building was not left in the best of shape and we are working to clean it up, repaint the walls, and restore it for our use as a Parish Center. This gathering space will be used for our Religious Education Program, and other parish functions. There are many ideas and plans that are being discussed on how we can not only restore the building but also how we will raise the funds needed to keep it operational. Not only did we regain our Parish Center, but we also regained all the bills associated with it, insurance, heating, electric, etc. These are now our responsibility.

There are a lot of great people in our parish community who devote themselves to making St. Margaret and St. Mary churches beautiful and welcoming for all. Keeping this in mind, we still need to pay our bills and expenses. We need to pay our staff who work tirelessly to provide the services needed. We need to have the funds so that, we may continue our projects and great ministries. Please consider all the things that we have accomplished and the things that still need to be accomplished. I am confident that we will get through these stressful times and once again resume some sort of normalcy.

Please give as generously as possible. God bless you and your families.

Sincerely,

Fr Marek Chmurski

Pastor