

**August 2018**

## **FINANCIAL STATE OF THE PARISH AND SCHOOL EXPANSION UPDATE**

DEAR PARISH FAMILY:

In my first two months as pastor, it has been a joy and privilege meeting so many of you. I learned very quickly about the many gifts present in this community, and also about some of the needs we will soon face as our parish family continues to grow. As we begin a new school year, it is time to make you aware of where the parish and school stand in terms of giving and potential expansion.

As our new Diocesan stewardship theme tells us, we are all called to be “fully alive” in our relationship with Jesus Christ. One key aspect of that relationship is sharing our financial gifts with His church. We are each and all challenged to share in proportion to what we have received and to make our giving sacrificial. Resurrection is blessed to be debt-free and very stable financially, but we face the same challenges as most growing families: there are more needs than funds.

Here are the key elements of our parish’s current financial situation –

- Total giving increased 4% last fiscal year, which just met expenses and was up from the 3% we have averaged for the last five years.
- The current fiscal year budget requires a 6% increase in giving (July ‘18 – June ‘19), half of which is due to adding the second section of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.
- We need to engage more of our members in active financial stewardship, as just over 50% have made pledges and are regularly contributing.
- Our consistent growth in members of 3% per year and an increase in Resurrection Catholic School students require us to consider adding space.
- Continuing to add a second section of each school grade will require growth in giving of 5-7% each year and capital spending for school and parish space of up to \$10 million.

I am deeply committed to maintaining and growing the stewardship way of life at Resurrection. This, of course, includes our stewardship of treasure. Being good stewards of God’s financial resources means that we will prayerfully consider any major commitments and discuss them openly as a parish family. Over the next few months, with the involvement of my advisory councils, we will present and reflect on options for addressing the various needs.

IN CHRIST,

FATHER MICHAEL J. SCHEMM