

June 22, 2009

Dear Parishioner,

As I write this letter I am reminded of the words of St. Paul, "...whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." Do you know that your God-given gifts supply assistance, both spiritual and material, to tens of thousands of people right now – today?

More than likely you are not aware of this, but it's true. A Catholic family driven from Iraq due to religious persecution is being helped to start a new life here in Detroit because of you; children and adults are learning to read because of tutors provided by you; families are recovering from the trauma of unemployment because of you. Did you know that children are receiving a wholesome lunch, perhaps their only wholesome meal today, because of you? The Body and Blood of Christ is being given to an infirm, elderly or incarcerated person because of you.

Through the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) many acts of Christian charity and religious formation are accomplished and funded by your gift. Your sharing is a way of living your faith in Christ; it is faith at work. As a member of our faith community and follower of Christ, several weeks ago you received a letter about this year's CSA, but we have not yet received your pledge or contribution. Perhaps the letter was misplaced or landed in a stack on your desk. Whatever the case, we need to hear from you. Your resources may be limited due to the current economic situation; nonetheless, please share what you can with others less fortunate. In return, God will not be outdone in His generosity to you.

As you know, the Archdiocese sets our parish CSA goal based on a combination of the average income for our zip code, as well as on offertory and Christmas collections. This year our assessment is \$326,892. Economic conditions have greatly affected all of us, and I realize that you may not be able to contribute at the same level as in previous years. I simply request that you give what is reasonable for you.

We recently celebrated the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ and the Feast of our patron, St. John Francis Regis. We are grateful for the gifts that God gives us; He is our nourishment, consolation, and companion. Whatever amount your gift may be, remember that your participation in the CSA touches others through the ministry of the Church.

Please pray to discern what your CSA contribution will be, then mail it or drop it off at the Parish Office Center this week. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Help us reach our goal.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. J. Hawro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Pastor
Enclosures