

## ***Father's Day 2021***

**To the Parish Council President of  
Holy Apostles Church  
2501 Wolf Rd.  
Westchester, Illinois 60154-4948**

Dear and esteemed Parish Council President of Holy Apostles Church,

I greet you warmly in the grace and peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is with sentiments of joy that I communicate with you by means of this letter to inform you of a special initiative that the Archdiocese is presently undertaking to support the Clergy and Lay Employee Pension Fund of our Archdiocese. As Parish Council President, your leadership role within the parish is crucial in assisting the priest with the various administrative affairs, ministries, committees and financial matters of the community. Therefore, I would like to directly call upon you for your vital assistance in this fundraising campaign, which aims to improve the funding of the pension fund that our clergy and their families rely upon for their retirement and long-term wellbeing.

As you know, during the 45th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress last year, it was reported that the Clergy and Lay Employee Pension Fund has been underfunded. Recognizing this concern, our Sacred Archdiocese has been working diligently and tirelessly to formulate a plan that will address this shortfall. The solution that we have implemented at the beginning of this year provides for funding the shortfall over a 30-year period, but we are hopeful that we can reduce this time period to less than 30 years through voluntary charitable giving by our faithful.

Beginning with this year's celebration of Father's Day, then, on Sunday, June 20, our Archdiocese will officially commence efforts across the Nation to raise funds in order to reach our goal by welcoming a \$100 contribution from every family in your parish toward this end. This day has been specifically chosen because of the significance it holds for fathers everywhere. Together with celebrating the paternal and fatherly aspect of the holiday, we must also honor and commemorate the Reverend Clergy of our Church in America, who through their selfless service lovingly minister to the daily needs of their faithful. And this is precisely where your wholehearted commitment and vital participation are required in order to ensure a most successful outcome for the overall benefit of our clergy and their families, as well as for our Archdiocese as a whole.

In inviting you to lead by example and personally join in this blessed fundraising campaign, I kindly request that you please help spread the word throughout your community and to all of your fellow parishioners too, by encouraging them to visit the following web address ([www.supportourfathers.org](http://www.supportourfathers.org)) where they can donate online to this noble and most worthy cause. Of course, donations can be sent by check directly to the Archdiocese as well — with the memo notation of "Father's Day Campaign" — or you may choose to make a parish collection instead. Either way, every contribution is tax deductible, and your support and encouragement are greatly needed to secure the

collective participation of your community. While I understand that this will, indeed, be a serious sacrifice for many, it is also a genuine and most venerable expression of support, solidarity, affection and appreciation for the priests of our parishes and for all the wonderful clergymen and servants of God who have positively impacted our lives.

And so, I thank you in advance for your gracious time, understanding and assistance in this undertaking, and extend to you my archpastoral blessings and heartfelt prayers for a truly fruitful fundraising effort.

With much gratitude and paternal love in Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America