



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Catholic Church & School

September 20, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

Seems to me it's just about the right time for a Catholic Stewardship Appeal up-date!

You may recall that both of our parishes performed fantastically in the 2019 Catholic Stewardship Appeal [CSA], both in terms of total giving and in percentage of parishioner participation. At St. Thomas Aquinas, 146 parishioners – just under 31.5% of registered households – contributed \$31,808, which was 138% of the parish's assigned goal of \$23,000. Similarly, St. John the Baptist saw 26.5% of its registered households, which amounted to a total of 375 contributors, giving nearly \$114,000 to the cause – more than 30% over SJB's assigned goal of \$87,500.

Acknowledging your generosity, the Archdiocese proceeded to hike each parish's goal for the 2020 CSA, STA's by 2.5% (new goal: \$23,575) and SJB's by 3%. (new goal: \$90,125). These goals were set late last year and communicated to us in mid-January, before the COVID-19 pandemic started to make itself felt in the United States. Many Hands, One Vision, the 2020 CSA, kicked-off on the first weekend in February.

Seven months into the appeal, this is where we stand: St. Thomas Aquinas is within a stone's throw of reaching its new goal; with a participation rate, so far, of 24.5% (112 households) the current total of dollars pledged stands at \$23,223 – \$352 shy of the goal! St. John the Baptist has a bit more work to do. With 20% of registered households – 263 of them – participating to date, pledges currently total \$75,015, slightly over 83% of goal. I am not too concerned yet. After all, there are four months remaining in the year, and there are still 34 contributors from last year at STA and 112 at SJB who haven't made their presence felt yet in this year's appeal.

I certainly acknowledge that there are factors at work this year that might make it difficult for some of those people to participate in the CSA as generously as they might otherwise like. Still, the end of the year is four months off, and a lot of good things can happen between now and then. Pray for the good!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Philip D. Reifenberg".

Fr. Philip D. Reifenberg, Pastor