



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Catholic Church & School

August 2, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

So, anticipating a \$600K+ deficit for the current fiscal year, what are some possible ways of proceeding? We're bouncing around several ideas:

- **Dreamlists.** We know that people are more likely to donate when they know exactly where their money is going and how it's going to be used. So, we're approaching our "departments" (school, prayer & worship, faith formation, buildings & grounds, etc.) with a request for some specific projects or material needs they have that might be paid for by a donor or combination of donors.
- **Angel Fund.** Traditionally, the Angel Fund has been a source of financial assistance to school parents to help them meet tuition demands. Contributions to the Angel Fund could augment the assistance we are already providing to parents in this time of need.
- **Funding the Gap.** The "Gap" is the difference between the per pupil cost of education and what is covered by tuition. It is a simple arithmetic computation: \$1,361,480 (total school operation expense) divided by the number of registered students (136 as of the time the budget was prepared) yields the per pupil cost of \$10,011. The average tuition charge per student is \$2,798, leaving a "Gap" of \$7,213. Perhaps a concerted effort to "Fund the Gap" could be organized and facilitated later this year.
- **Virtual Auction.** Some prospective new members of the School Advisory Committee have raised the possibility of holding a virtual auction, maintaining that they've seen successful ventures of this kind in other schools and parishes. This is an option we will be exploring further.
- **Annual Fund.** Many organizations in the non-profit world conduct an Annual Fund as their major fund-raiser each year. A successful Annual Fund has to be well-organized and promoted. I do not believe we could hold a very successful Annual Fund drive this year, but we probably should be putting the pieces in place to do one next year.

Except for the Angel Fund, all of these ideas lie in the realm of hypothetical measures we could attempt to make ends meet in the current fiscal year. It should be noted that any endeavor we launch over the next five years will be running side-by-side with the Archbishop's Love One Another Capital Campaign, which is expected to resume once we've gotten through COVID-19 and will inevitably take a big bite out of people's disposable income. The good news is that 60% of what parishioners give to the Love One Another Capital Campaign will stay in the parish!

As I suggested last week, the situation is, indeed, serious but nowhere near desperate, and I will tell you why I believe this to be the case next week. And know this: St. John the Baptist Catholic School is preparing and intends to be fully open for business this Fall.

Fr. Philip D. Reifenberg, Pastor