

Brothers and Sisters,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

We appreciate the opportunity to write you this letter. First, we want to thank you for the following:

- For being merciful and forgiving of us.
- For parents who continue bringing their children to services.
- For those who step forward to chair special parish projects with courage.
- For being here even on days you don't want to be here.
- For doing things expecting nothing in return.
- For those who sing and lead the worship of the Church.
- For all of sacrifices and acts of love done that we don't know about.
- Advocating for the financial well-being of our families so we do not have to do it.

We also want to take this opportunity to ask the following of you. We hope that our faithful would stop the following:

- Majoring in minors. It is easy to be distracted by small issues and miss the big picture. Be big picture people.
- Playing sports Sunday morning.
- Waiting for someone to ask you to do something.
- Allowing the Church to be guided by a business paradigm. The business of the Church is to make saints.
- Living an unbalanced amount of our "Church life" on the internet.

In contrast we ask that you start the following:

- Increasing the attendance of the faithful at services.
- Realizing that you have a vocation in the Church as well.
- To think about old habits that may not be healthy.
- To think of the Church as Sacrament and not as a building. The building is a vehicle to realize the Sacramental nature of the Church.
- Offer constructive criticism and support when the temptation would be to merely complain.

Lastly we ask that you continue the following:

- To deepen your spiritual life (daily prayers, Scripture reading, fasting, etc.)
- Allow the faithful of the parish to be a safe place to allow the clergy to submit to (and trust) the faithful. Submission requires vulnerability, and clergy need this.
- Continue to show up to the work (worship, service, etc.) of the Church.
- Continue to care for one another.
- To build one another up in Christ, help the weaker brethren.

To conclude this heartfelt letter, we want to express our thanks to all who make the sacrifice of their time, talent, and treasure for the building up of Christ's Holy Church.

In the love of our Risen Savior,

The Clergy of your parishes