



St. Michael THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear Michaelonians,

Visitors sense it. Those who are involved in our parish experience it. We are a spirited and special parish! We are blessed. We are growing and vibrant. I want to thank all of you who so generously contribute your time, talents, and treasure to God to make our parish a wonderful community of faith. I can speak firsthand of the wonderful faith community that is our parish family and the welcoming spirit of our parish. I am grateful for your love and prayers. I am truly humbled to serve this parish as your pastor. I look forward to the many opportunities for us to grow in faith and share our love for God together.

As you may be aware, our new building is nearing completion. The youth, the Knights, and many other ministries and parishioners will be enjoying it in the near future. As our programs continue to expand and we start to use that building, we anticipate increased costs. For the last three years, I have not come to you with a specific request to increase your financial support. I have been particularly aware of your generosity through the *Living Our Mission* campaign and the Diocesan Appeals. You have done this, while continuing your generous support of St. Michael parish and its many ministries. Our income has remained generally constant, while costs have risen. To be fiscally responsible, we have cut expenses as much as possible, but we will need to increase our income, if we want to continue witnessing the Gospel as we have so beautifully!

So, I am writing to you to announce a program that we are initiating in the parish. After prayerful consideration and discussion with the Finance Council and the Parish Pastoral Council, we have decided to introduce this program in an effort to increase our parish offertory. The intention of this program is for all of us to internally examine the role that our parish has in our own lives and how we can challenge ourselves to do more to support it.

Our parish is such a vibrant and spirited community, because of the gifts that you share so generously: the gift of your time to worship, the gift of your talents to the many ministries and programs we share, and the gift of your generosity and financial support for our parish. Your gifts go beyond just “supporting the parish.” They serve to proclaim the Good News of God’s love to everyone who comes to our parish. Right now, we are facing a challenge. I know that Michaelonians can accomplish great things together.

While I am not aware if you are capable of increasing your level of giving, I ask and know that you will give this request prayerful consideration. In the upcoming weeks, you will hear more about this program. You will receive a letter from me asking you to consider a specific gift increase and a Commitment Card for you to document your intention. I ask that you return your completed Commitment Card during one of the Masses on our Commitment Weekend, October 28 and 29.

Thank you again for all you have done in the past and continue to do for our parish. Please know that I will continue to keep you, your family, and our parish in my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,