



Dear Parishioners,

During these times of economic struggle for so many, we unfortunately find our parish is struggling as well. *We are asking for your help.*

It was a long, cold winter, and as you well know, the cost of oil, gas, and energy has skyrocketed. That in combination with a festival profit that was less than budgeted for has placed us in a difficult predicament as we strive hard to maintain our high quality programming throughout the parish.

While we recognize that many of you find yourselves working hard to make a concerted effort to meet the high cost of gas and energy as well, we are hoping you will pray and find it in your heart to give just a little extra or more to your extended church family.

The weekend of May 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> began our CSA pledge drive. This year's theme is "Bridging the Generations". While a budgeted portion of CSA is turned in to the Archdiocese for diocesan ministries and services such as Seminarian support, anything above that is placed DIRECTLY into our parish account. This extra funding is the light we are looking for.

Our CSA goal has been lowered by almost \$7000 this year, so the \$69,000 goal we are asked to contribute is absolutely attainable! If we can exceed our goal this year, we will be able to use the surplus to maintain existing parish and school staff positions and continue to offer numerous services and programming throughout the parish and school. What a wonderful way to "Bridge the Generations" and support our future as a Catholic family of faith.

As an incentive, if you pay a minimum of \$150 of your pledge by June 1<sup>st</sup>, you will be entered in a drawing for three cash prizes: 1-\$100, 1-\$50, and 1-\$25.

We will also display a SRB Giving Tree in the back of church. However, rather than taking donation tags off for worthy causes, we are asking you to donate through your CSA Pledge Card to give back to the tree.

Donations of the following increments will give you the privilege of having your family name placed on a coordinating colored leaf:

\$50 Donation = Green Leaf      \$250 Donation = Red Leaf  
\$100 Donation = Orange Leaf    \$500 & Above Donation = Golden Yellow Leaf

This tree will remain in the church for all to see. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we fill our Giving Tree with abundance!

After all pledges have been collected, we will purchase and plant a tree on the parish property along with a visible plaque with a group dedication to the generous donors of our parish that contributed to the SRB Giving Tree. The life of this tree will represent the unity of our parish family and the continued growth we know we will share in for many years to come!

Please know that we do not take this matter lightly and we have been working with the Archdiocese of Detroit's Department of Parish Support Services to study the parish and school's financial picture and prepare a feasible budget for 2008-2009. We have been congratulated for being proactive and have challenged ourselves to make cuts in any areas where we have deemed it possible to do so. While we are still a strong, viable parish, we want to move into the future with certainty.

We appreciate your thoughtful prayer and consideration of this matter. Please pick up your pledge card in the Church Hall if you haven't done so already. We will gladly accept your pledge today or you may drop your card in the collection basket at any mass. We thank you in advance for your generosity and we continue to keep you and your family in our prayers as we all do our best to work together to face these challenging times.

May you find peace in your lives,

Fr. Richard and The Staff of St. Robert Bellarmine