



ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC CHURCH

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*"Nobody goes on hoping for something which is already visible.
But having this hope for what we cannot yet see,
we are able to wait for it with persevering confidence."
~ Romans 8:24-25*

October 2, 2020

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

Over the past six months, I've been reminded often of this verse from Romans. As the global pandemic shut down our parish, our school and inhibited all our lives, we've been hoping for things to get better. I'd like to think that day by day, week by week, we are all seeing slight improvements. At St. Pius, we are back to celebrating in-person Mass and our school is up and running successfully. As a parish community, we continue to navigate these unprecedented challenges.

As we enter the fourth quarter of 2020, our parish also continues to look forward with *"persevering confidence."* In that spirit, I am reaching out to all parish families to give a preview of what lies ahead in the coming weeks and months. And with full transparency, to let you know we will be asking for your generous of support several initiatives.

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

Every October, we ask parish families to discern their sacrificial giving to St. Pius X. Your "tithe" is what allows our parish to function. Everything from staff salaries to utilities to the operation of our school, your stewardship is critically important to St. Pius sustaining its mission.

You will soon be asked to determine your level of giving for 2021. As you might imagine, this past year has been challenging. Moving into next year, we pray that you will sustain your level of giving from 2020, if not consider a slight increase.

When will we receive our request for the annual stewardship appeal?

The mailing should arrive in homes later next week. I will be talking more about in Masses on **Sunday, October 11th**. We kindly ask that you fill out and return the stewardship pledge card by the end of October.

LIVING OUR MISSION – BUILDING OUR FUTURE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In response to the COVID health crisis, we suspended our building campaign last March. After consulting with parish leaders, campaign volunteers and the diocese, I recently made the decision to resume this important initiative. We are in the process of organizing our volunteer team and preparing to roll out the campaign in early November.

Why are we resuming this campaign in the midst of the pandemic? Wouldn't it be better to wait?

The pandemic hasn't curbed the necessity of these projects. In fact, it's only accentuated how much our parish needs a new interconnect building and renovated parish center. While implementing the necessary social distancing guidelines, we find ourselves with less available space than ever before. Our Pius Pals program is especially cramped. In the meantime, enrollment at St. Pius X School is growing.

We have more students than previous years as families opt to transfer their children from area public schools. Our hope is those families will choose to stay. Enhancing our facilities can only help. And with a time lag between collecting donations and completing construction, we don't want to delay any longer.

Isn't the Diocese of Des Moines planning to launch a campaign? How will that affect our parish campaign?

The diocese is currently conducting a study to determine whether area parishioners favor a campaign to assist Catholic schools. The campaign is not imminent, but if the diocese decides to launch a major fundraising effort, St. Pius X would be asked to participate. With that possibility looming, the bishop has asked all parishes who are currently running campaigns to wrap them up as soon as possible. While this was not the main reasoning for resuming our effort at St. Pius, it did factor into the decision.

When will we be asked to support the building campaign?

By early November, all parish families should receive a packet of information that details our vision and how you can invest. Campaign volunteers will be reaching out to parishioners to answer questions. This is an extraordinary effort in the history of St. Pius and will stabilize our facilities for years to come. I hope you'll consider supporting it to the degree you're able to.

Please know I realize these adjoining requests will ask a lot of you and your family. The impact of the pandemic has forced us to adjust the timing of all our appeals. It's certainly not ideal but I remain confident about the future of St. Pius X and hopeful that our future is bright. The challenges of 2020 will open the door to wonderful blessings in 2021 and beyond.

We have the opportunity to unite in our mission to: Love God. Love Others. Make Disciples. Restore All Things In Christ. As a parish and as individuals, we are called to do our part to be a source of hope for our community and to reach out with God's love and mercy to those in need.

Let us pray for one another and for all those impacted by the virus. St. Pius X. Pray for Us.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. David P. Fleming". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. David P. Fleming
Pastor