



October 2021

My Sisters and Brothers,

We are starting our part of the Diocesan Campaign entitled, **Heart of a Shepherd**". This campaign is a \$30 Million dollar initiative designed to support (1) a major renovation of the Center for Pastoral Leadership (commonly known as Borromeo Seminary). The CPL not only trains men for priesthood, but also deacons, lay ecclesial leaders, and offers many opportunities for ministry enrichment for men and women. I studied at Borromeo from 1964 til 1972, and I can tell you very little renovations have taken place since that or even before that. The \$23 Million from this campaign is having a big impact on continuing to have our own diocesan seminary. I believe that will be a benefit to the diocese long into the future. The second area is 7 Million dollars to fully fund the Clergy Pension Retirement Fund. That is of benefit for old guys like me who someday may get to retire. This also benefits the parish since it will reduce or eliminate the yearly assessment of \$8000 per priest. That is a hefty bill for us every January. The third area is \$3 Million dollars to form an endowment to assist clergy with tuition debt. This campaign is very different from the "Rooted in Faith" campaign we were a part of over ten years ago. Although I must say, the "Rooted in Faith" has been, and continues to be, very beneficial to the Church, and I thank everyone who participated in that campaign.

"Heart of a Shepherd" is a much softer approach. We still hope all our parishioners will prayerfully and honestly look into their own heart for how God is calling you to give. We still are having individual visits with some of our more generous parishioners, and those visits have already begun. We will have a parish-wide reception on Sunday morning, October 24th, between the 9:30 and 11:30 Masses, to help tell the story, answer questions, and share our thoughts and questions with each other. The campaign will conclude with an "in-pew appeal" (much like Catholic Charities) the weekend before Thanksgiving. In the meantime I will be communicating with you in writing to help you better understand this, and to seek your support. There is no dollar expectation. Give from your heart as good stewards. This is ordinarily a three-year pledge, a one-time gift, or whatever way you choose

Here is the good news. The diocese, mindful of the needs of each parish (especially through this pandemic) has restructured the approach so that parishes can benefit also. We have chosen a moderately aggressive option in which our "Parish Target" is 35% of last year's Offertory (@\$640,000) and our "Parish Share" (what we get back) is 50% (@\$320,000) Anything we collect over our target, we receive 80% back. That means this can be very beneficial for us. We needed to state what our parish share would be exclusively used for, and these are our three goals. 1. A new Baptismal Font that would be used for all baptisms, but would also accommodate immersion of adults at the Easter Vigil. Baptism is so important, and the font should be a major part and symbol in our or any church. To be honest, ours has seen its day. 2. We would like to construct a year-round outdoor meeting place (pavilion) with heart, fireplace, doors that can be closed in inclement weather and open in nice. Right now we just have an architect coming up with ideas and options and where we might construct this. 3. We would like to establish a "Capital Needs Fund" that we can keep growing to help us deal with expected and unexpected capital needs (boiler, roof repairs, windows, etc.), so that when they arise we are ready and don't have to take them out of the regular operating expenses (which are a bit tight presently). I think all three of these areas will greatly enhance our parish life. I will be sharing more as we continue through these eight weeks of the campaign. As we do for all things—take this to the Lord in prayer, listen to your heart, do what you feel is best for you. I promise there will be no pressure, only tremendous gratitude. Feel free to talk to me if you have questions.

Have a great Autumn week. Our ministries for all ages—our smallest children through our "wisdom community of adults" are producing great fruit and many disciples. Thanks be to God, and to all those who are a part of these. Keep on going and growing. God has great plans for all of us—ultimately to become disciples and gain eternal life.

May God bless you and reward you for your goodness, and may God's peace be upon you

In God's love,

Fr. Fred Pausche

Pastor