

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

With the Masses of Easter Sunday itself, we begin to celebrate the post-Easter season—Easter itself is the celebration at the Easter Vigil—seven weeks of meditating on the resurrection of the Lord. The most important mystery of the Christian year—and the Christian faith—gives us pause to think about how we are reflecting the resurrection in our own lives and how we might more fully enter into the life of our parish.

We can, for instance, take a look at the various needs of our parish. You may notice that work on the air-conditioning system is actually begun. With less than one hundred ninety thousand dollars left to raise in our Capital Campaign Drive, we can thank God for what has thus far happened. We need, however, for more people in our parish to practice sacrificial giving to this effort. Remember the poor widow who dropped two coins in the temple treasury:

He [Jesus] looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the temple treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on” (Luke 21:1-4).

It seems to me that the Lord is offering material for our consideration. He seems to be telling us that we should give even when it hurts and especially even when it means sacrifice. Please prayerfully consider giving to our drive if you have not given; if you have given and can afford a further donation, please prayerfully consider taking action.

We can rejoice that St. Stephen’s and Holy Name parishes have now hired a part-time youth ministry director, Julie Ginther. Her relationship to the other parishes of the uptown deanery is not yet definite. She will begin her work soon. We have responded to Archbishop Hughes’s urging during his visitation of our parish last April. We hope that many young people in our parish will take advantage of this opportunity to be close to the Church. Please pray for the success of this ministry.

Let us pray another group of our young people, those who are preparing to receive our Lord in Holy Communion for the first time. We should continue to remember those who were baptized and received into communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. Let us continue to pray for ourselves as a parish family as we enjoy the beauty of this Easter season.

In our Lord,
Donald A. Hawkins, S.J.
Pastor

