



*"...a Joy-Filled, Welcoming
Roman Catholic
Community of Faith!"*

January 11, 2017

My Dear Friends and Fellow Parishioners,

As we begin the New Year, I want to thank so many of you for your Christmas wishes and gifts, not only to me personally, but most appreciatively to our wonderful Parish! I write to share with you that the State of our Parish is strong and good! The last few months have been full of good works, pastoral and administrative challenges met and moved forward, strategic goals presented and initial steps made to meet them. We are growing in numbers, overcoming obstacles, increasing revenue, praying with fervor and responding generously to the needs of others.

Allow me to share some highlights...

Pastorally:

- The number of people worshipping on a regular basis has increased.
- 74 new individuals or households now call the Church of St. Cecilia home.
- We are making strides at identifying our homebound and meeting their needs.
- Participation in our Advent Services increased by more than 50%.
- We have gained the reputation for being welcoming and accommodating to newcomers, visitors, those needing assistance and local charitable organizations.
- The clothing, toiletry, food and gift drives were met with an inspiring level of participation and, most recently, our Epiphany Box collection brought in at least twice as much as last year!

Financially:

- St. Cecilia Sings, our ongoing Stewardship campaign continues to grow. Year one focused on Capital Projects and Year two on increasing ordinary income. BOTH are successful and continue to provide benefits for the Parish.
- End of Year Giving was very fruitful with gifts amounting to more than \$40,000.00 received, to be used for Capital Projects, Outreach and ordinary expenses.
- We are able to breathe a little easier as we are able to meet our ordinary expenses and find that we actually are building a little cash reserve!
- Designated contributions made by parishioners allow us to increase our ability to respond to those in need and address some of our Parish's Capitol Needs, such as
 - Fix deteriorating back entrances in the Parish Center
 - Address the repairs needed on outer stairs at the Church
 - Equip the Church and Hall with wi-fi
 - Fund the total building, systems and grounds assessment for our campus

Moving forward:

- We must find ways to sustain and increase the Pastoral and Financial gains we have seen.
- Work together enthusiastically to reach the goals of our Pastoral Plan.
- Find ways to grow our Community Spirit with social events that bring us together for fun!
- Create a Master Plan to address repairs, improvements and renovations needed for our Church, McDermott Hall, Parish Center, Rectory, School, parking lots and grounds.

There is much to be thankful for, much to be celebrated and much to be done, but that is nothing new! With God's blessings and all of us sharing our time, talent and treasure to the best of our ability, the Church of St. Cecilia will continue to sing a joyful song to the Lord.

Thank You for adding your voice!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Bertram".

Please continue reading on the back-→

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