



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parish Milwaukee, WI

Loving God, at this time in the life of our parish, we turn to you with grateful hearts, for what we have, and with grateful anticipation of what is yet to be. Our Lady of Lourdes pray for us. Amen.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear fellow parishioners,

On September 1st of this year, when Bishop Richard Sklba dedicated our new altar and ambo he made this statement, "This is a very beautiful church--and the building is very nice also." To help us experience the reality, he invited all of us to step forward and reverence both the altar and the ambo in our own way. He captured the vision of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. For we, the people, are the church, and our gathering together continues our growth as a community of Jesus' disciples.

Keep our Vision Growing is our call, as the people of God, which demands that we expand our love of God, grow in our love of neighbor, and carry out our responsibility to serve others in need. In other words, we need to grow in spirituality, community and ministry. We gather to grow spiritually through

our prayers, our song, our celebration of sacraments and our liturgy. We gather together in our study, our work and our fun to become better known to each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. We gather together to explore the needs of the community around us and to find the gifts we have to respond in ministry.

To keep the vision growing, our parish needs the facilities that support who we are and who we are becoming. We gather as the people of God most often to grow spiritually in our worship space. We have renovated the space to celebrate our spirit but the costs have not been entirely covered. We hope to improve the space for music ministry and offer greater access to those of us who are limited physically. Our parish hall is our largest and most often used gathering place for study, for meeting, for food and for having fun. We need to update and refresh this environment to be more who we are. And finally, to gather people in

and be hospitable and minister together, our marquee and directional signage need to be improved and updated.

Together we can keep the vision growing by sacrificing a little extra. Yes, we are "a very beautiful church--and the buildings are very nice also." Together we will continue to grow spiritually as a community ministering to others. I pray that you will join me in this effort. I am your brother,

In Christ,

Father Bill

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Our mission

Our Lady of Lourdes is a pilgrim church coming to know the Kingdom of God by being Christ to the World.

SHARING TOGETHER

The *Keep Our Vision Growing* Appeal is a parish-wide effort to renew and expand our financial support of the parish in two key areas:

Our Regular Weekly/Monthly Offerings

Our regular offerings are needed to support our ministries and parish expenses for 2013. Your generous weekly/monthly offerings pay for:

- Parish staff salaries and payroll expenses/benefits.
- Operating expenses (heat, electricity, phone, office supplies, etc.)
- Ministry needs (sacramental supplies, music, formation needs, etc.)

Our goal is to increase regular weekly/monthly offerings by 2% to 3%. Please respond with your commitment for 2013 by returning the enclosed Regular Weekly/Monthly Offering commitment card.

Capital Fund Giving

Our earlier planning process and needs assessment relied upon input from our parishioners. This input led to prioritized recommendations that parishioners felt were important to our

future. We now seek special three-year commitments, over and above our regular weekly/monthly offerings, to:

- Fully fund and complete our worship space renovations (\$265,000)
- Renovate our parish hall (\$90,000)
- Enhance our outdoor signage (\$20,000)

Our goal is to raise as much of the proposed renovation project costs as possible in three-year commitments. Please respond with your 3-year commitment to our Capital Fund by returning the enclosed Capital Fund commitment card.

OUR RENOVATION PLANS

Worship Space Renovations

We are excited about the progress that has been made with our worship space renovations. The final phase of our worship space renovations, estimated to cost \$125,000, includes the following:

- Choir Platform Reconfiguration with accessibility
- Wall Aesthetic Enhancements on East, South & West walls
- Stations Of The Cross on South wall

- Ambry (holder of sacred oils)
- Candle Stands, Credence Table, Chairs for Presider & Servers
- Organ Cabinet Removal
- Relocation of bas reliefs (sculptured art)

Our parishioners have been generous in their support of the renovations we currently enjoy. These renovations were also funded by “lending ourselves” or “advancing” roughly \$140,000 from the proceeds of the sale of our rectory, which was to originally assist us in maintaining a healthy reserve for unforeseen repairs. One of our goals is to use a portion of our Capital Fund gifts to “pay ourselves back” by restoring \$140,000 to our parish reserves.

Parish Hall Renovations

Our Parish Hall is an important space in the life of our parish. Proposed renovations, estimated to cost \$90,000, would include:

- Rebuilding of outside walls for energy efficiency and resolve moisture issues
- Replacing lighting for energy efficiency
- Installing a new audio/visual system
- Replacing acoustical ceiling



THE INVITATION TO GIVE

Capital Fund Giving

All members of our parish family are asked to pray and consider the following invitation to give to our Capital Fund.

Matching Existing Giving

We ask you to pray and consider matching (doubling) your current regular giving over the next three years. For example, if your current regular giving is \$15 per week (\$780 a year), would you pray and consider giving an additional \$15 per week to our Capital Fund over the next three years, for a total commitment of \$2,340?

Pacesetter Gift - We ask those who are in a position to give more, to pray and consider making a pacesetter gift of \$3,000 to \$20,000 to our Capital Fund to be given over the next three years.

Leadership Gift - We invite members who have been financially blessed to pray and consider making a leadership gift of \$20,000 or more to our Capital Fund to be given over the next three years.

Regular Weekly/Monthly Offerings

All parish members are asked to renew and grow their regular weekly/monthly offerings. As expenses continue to inch upwards, we recognize the need to consider the possibility of increasing our regular giving **2% to 3%**. Keeping our regular giving strong allows us to keep touching hearts and lives with Christ's love through our many ministries. Our regular offerings remain our first priority in giving.



A PRAYER OF GENEROSITY

Generous God, Holy Wisdom, In You we live and move and have our being. Your Spirit fills us, the parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes, with the fire of Your love.

Open our hearts to live in Your Holy Presence, with Your gifts of welcome, understanding, compassion and forgiveness. Inspire us to give generously of our time, talent and treasure.

Help us to share these gifts with one another, so we may continue to build a community of faith rooted in worship and service.

We ask You to hear our prayer, Father, Son and Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Amen.



PLEASE GIVE AS GOD LEADS YOU

We pray that all of our gift-giving decisions are motivated by the love God has shown for us in Jesus Christ. We realize that not everyone has the resources to make a gift within the ranges hoped for. Our hope is that every member makes a prayerful, sacrificial gift and through their decision finds joy in the privilege and “grace of giving” (2 Corinthians 8:7). We remain confident that the Holy Spirit will guide each of us in our response to this Appeal. Whatever your response may be, we say “Thanks be to God.”

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

On Commitment Weekend, December 1 - 2, you are invited to bring both of your completed response cards to Mass where they will be received in a special way. Prior to Commitment Weekend, through talks at Mass, mailings, and telephone calls, we hope to communicate the importance of this Appeal to our parish. If you cannot be with us on December 1 - 2, please return your response envelope the following Sunday or mail it to the parish office. May your response be made with joy and thanksgiving for all God has given you.

OUR APPEAL STEERING TEAM

We thank the dedicated members of our parish who are giving of their time and talent to help make the *Keep our Vision Growing* Appeal a success. Our Appeal is led by members of our Appeal Steering Team:

Fr. Bill Burkert

Sr. Mary Diez

Joe Kallenberger

Claudia Porter

Jim Sajdak

Kathleen Schmid

Tom Schneider

Michael Steppe

Amy Valensa

Many other members of our parish are serving in a variety of Appeal roles. We thank them all for their service!



**Our Lady of Lourdes
Catholic Church**

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