

CHURCH OF ST. ANNE

September 15, 2009

Dear Fellow Parishioners of St. Anne's:

We are writing to you about a very important matter. St. Anne's needs your help. As members of St. Anne's Finance & Administration Commission, we realize that many of you are struggling economically today. St. Anne's is feeling some of the effects; last fiscal year our total income was about \$26,000 below budget and when combined with several unanticipated expenses, we suffered an operating deficit of nearly \$40,000.

Keeping those realities in mind, while still meeting the needs of our Parish, we reduced this year's budgeted income and expenses by almost four percent – about \$13,000. However, during the first two months of the fiscal year (which begins on July 1st), offertories continue to fall below our new reduced budget. We are concerned that we will experience another significant deficit unless this trend can be reversed. Deficits cause us real harm since they are paid for by withdrawing funds from the modest savings account which was been built up by our parishioners over many years. This can continue for only so long, perhaps a few years, before grave measures would have to be taken.

Our Parish currently has 710 families registered at St. Anne's of which 316 families (or individuals) request and are mailed weekly offertory budget envelopes. On average, 130 envelopes are collected each week. 22 families are using EFT to make their offertories. If each family were to increase their weekly contribution by \$5.00 per week, we will avert having another deficit. Less than \$1.00 per day from each family. Less than the cost of driving your car ten miles a week. We can meet our budget if everyone makes this additional sacrifice.

We are also asking that everyone:

1. If you are not currently using the budget envelopes (or utilizing electronic fund transfers) and are willing to make regular use of them, please contact the office and we will originate envelope mailing.

or

2. If you already receive budget envelopes and are not using them, please begin or resume their use.

We realize that current economic conditions are difficult for many of our parishioners. However, the financial viability of St. Anne's is critical if we are to continue offering a full range of services, not just weekend Masses. We feel that it is very important to our parish community that we are able to continue being a vibrant, active Church.

We certainly want to thank you for all of your past and current support and also thank you in advance for prayerfully considering our requests in fulfilling the needs of St. Anne's.

God bless you!

Reverend Lawrence J. Conley

Jim Means, F & A Chairman

Stacy O'Brien, F & A Member

Dot Piazzola, F & A Member