

June 23, 2005

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My letter last week included this paragraph: *As in any family: some will live in denial of the problems; many will live with the problems, hoping that things will get better if we just hang in there; others will be more proactive in naming the issues and working for a healthier family life; and still others... will find it necessary to "leave home."* In the long run, every prayerful decision and choice can help the Church understand how tragic things have become and will, I hope, help the Church chart a course more faithful to the wisdom in all of God's people. My own rereading of this brought to mind yet another group of people who are glaringly and unfortunately missing from that paragraph: those who, though not spared the pain of reconfiguration, continue to contribute their active presence, time, talent and treasure to the building up of the parish family. In fact, this is probably the largest group of all. This includes: those who faithfully participate in Sunday (or Saturday afternoon) worship; those who minister in word, song and sacrament; those who work on our very busy parish councils, commissions, committees and projects; and those who generously support the fiscal needs of our parish and the archdiocese.

In this vein, allow me to share some information with you. Each year the archdiocese conducts an annual fund raising appeal. It was formerly called the Cardinal's Appeal and the Stewardship Appeal and is now named the Catholic Appeal. Each year, the archdiocese assigns each parish a goal. The goal is not an assessment or a bill, only a suggested goal. This year, we have been assigned a goal of \$121,000 for the Catholic Appeal. Many of you have received direct mail materials from the archdiocese regarding the appeal and copies of the same materials have been available at the church doors for over a month. To date, parishioners from Holy Family have pledged **62%** of our goal. Given the times and the climate and that we are among the reconfigured parishes of the archdiocese, I believe this support has been surprisingly strong, and I'm sure that others will also pledge and contribute to the campaign. This campaign supports agencies and ministries of the archdiocese that serve parishes and the poor and are, in large measure, dependent on the annual appeal for funding.

Our annual PARISH appeal will come this fall in the form of a Grand Annual Collection. I hope and pray that response at that time will be at least as generous as that given to the archdiocesan effort.

You may recall that last November I wrote to you that the archdiocese pledged start up funds for Holy Family Parish in the amount of \$800-900,000. To date, we have received \$205,000 although the completion of funding was to have been in the spring of 2005. With the Parish Finance Council, and the added support of the parish Buildings and Grounds Commission, I am approaching the archdiocese regarding the remainder of our funding. I will keep you informed as I have more information to report.

For those of you who leave us for most of the summer, please know that we will miss you and will pray for your safe return. Parish life goes on all summer and our bills, like yours, continue to come due. If you would take a moment before your vacation to send the parish an offering for the time you'll be away it will be gratefully received and put to very good use!

Many parishioners have inquired about my summer vacation and encouraged me to take one – I'm in full agreement! Unfortunately, I have waited until a late date to seek coverage for my vacation time but I am working on it! In any case, and as we have advertised for weeks, our weekend schedule goes "summer" the first weekend in July with Mass on Saturday at **5:00** and on Sundays at **8:00** and **10:30 a.m.** Please note the change on your own calendars!

Sincerely,
Fr. Fleming

Visit our Parish Web Site while on vacation: www.HolyFamilyConcord.org