

St. Teresa of Avila Equipment Replacement Campaign

4/5 November 2017

Dear members of St. Teresa of Avila congregation:

Mr. Francis Doyle of the Diocese office spoke to us last week under the rubric of stewardship, something he knows well as I'm sure all will agree. His appeal to us to reflect on our duty to all be custodians of our parish rings true. One of the key points Mr. Doyle emphasised was the sense of gratitude we ought to feel: for our community, for our parish and lovely church, indeed, for living in a time of peace and general affluence. A sign of our gratitude is expressed in our generosity: of contemplation and prayer, of time and commitment to the fullness of our church life, and, of course, financial. Mr. Doyle did not limit his definition to the latter, but as a member of the Building and Finance Committee I'm afraid I have to. This makes following Mr. Doyle a real challenge; my prose to his poetry.

As many of you know, our church is 25 years old and is showing its age, particularly the heating and air conditioning systems. One of the units had to be replaced this summer, and it is anticipated that the others are coming to the end of their life cycle. They, too, will need to be replaced soon.

The committee has set an objective of replacing one per year. We are hopeful that we can complete the replacement project by 2020. To finance this will require a separate campaign. We have set the goal at \$100,000 which covers the recent replacement as well as the anticipated costs of the others. Showing us their spirit of generosity, the Diocese has kick-started our campaign by giving us a \$10,000 gift and making the remainder exempt from the Cathedraticum levy. To see where the campaign stands, a thermometer-type display will be created and placed in the Narthex.

To facilitate giving, a separate Building Maintenance Fund envelope in blue has been printed and will be in circulation on the second Sunday of each month. The first of these will be placed in the pews next week, November 11/12. Please, consider giving generously and remember to include your name and address or your envelope number on the front so that we can give you credit.

As stewards, we have an obligation to be faithful to what God has given us. Our church needs our attention and as custodians we need to respond positively; we need to ensure that our church can continue to thrive for the next quarter century and beyond. As the Gospel according to Luke reminds us "from everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required" (Luke 12:48).

On behalf of the Building and Finance Committee, I thank you for your consideration now and in the future and will take any questions from you after Mass.