

May 19, 2010

Dear Parishioner,

We had a serious “money talk” at church in April. **So what has happened since those words were spoken?** We received contact from 26 households. Some signed up for automatic giving. Some signed up for “e-giving” from our web page. Some increased their gift or the frequency of their gift. Some were one-time gifts and some were recurring gifts. The increase for May and June we estimate to be \$2,315. The estimated increase for next fiscal year – July 2010 to June 2011 would be \$9,094. Others may make changes that we have not been informed of. The weekly collections have increased about \$500 per week. SCRIP sales have increased about \$5,000 a week in the last four weeks as well. If this were sustained it could result in an additional \$250 per week to the parish. **Thank you for this initial response to our urgent need!** The challenge will be to sustain this extra financial commitment going forward.

Let me tell you the message again - **We are spending more money that we are receiving – about \$4,000 per month.** From July 2009 to April 2010 we have spent **\$44,750** more than was received. It was also said that we have depleted our reserves from the sale of the Parish Center. They also said we are so close to closing the gap. All it would take is for \$1-2 more per week or \$10 more per month from many households. This could easily happen if more households would just use SCRIP to buy groceries. Every \$200 in groceries purchased through SCRIP will make a contribution of \$8-10 to the parish without any additional cost to you.

So now what? The Finance Ministry and Parish Council will continue to monitor our income for six months before making decisions to insure we don't spend more than we receive. In preparing a budget for July 2010 to June 2011 we have made additional reductions to close the gap from \$4,000 to \$2,500 more per month than we have been receiving. One change that may be most visible was made possible with the cooperation of Les Stahl, our Director of Music Ministry. We have reduced his hours and compensation and will only have children and adult choirs for the Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter seasons next year. We will still have music and cantors at all the masses however.

For the past three years 80% of our households have financially supported our parish. Thank you! Can you use **SCRIP** to help us close the gap? Can you sign up for **automated or electronic giving**? Can you give **\$1-2 more per week** or **\$10 more per month** to help keep what we have to come expect and love at St. Anne?

Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Don Thimm

Pastor

Hope to see you at our **3rd Annual Family 5K Fun Walk/Run on Saturday, June 12th** at 8:00 a.m. at Prairie Springs Park. You can register after mass or on line at www.signmeup.com. Fees are \$10 per individual. A family of 4 or more is \$8 per person. Race shirts are included to the first 200 registrants. Sign up before May 23rd to receive a family discount. Proceeds will benefit the Frank Neighborhood Project.