

Dear Parishioners,

There are some important projects and issues that need to be addressed in this letter so that I can inform you about what is going on here at St. Catherine's parish.

First of all, I want to let you know that the Rockford Diocese has had to initiate a program to help pay for the new Chancery building which was purchased in 2003. At the time of the purchase, the diocese had a plan to pay for the building but unfortunately those plans did not work out as well as expected. At this time the diocese is not able to keep up with payments and so every parish in the diocese has been given a 3% assessment to help retire the debt. All parishes have been given three options of how to pay this assessment. The first option is to pay 3% of our ordinary income every year for the next 8 years and one month. The payment would increase every year based on our actual ordinary income growth. The second option is to pay a one time lump sum payment which assumes a 2% ordinary income growth over the 8 years and one month. The third option is to obtain a Diocesan loan to make the payment. After consulting with the pastoral and finance councils, we have paid a one time lump sum figure of \$41,530 as this payment is far lower than what the total payments made on a yearly basis would be.

Another project in the works for quite awhile is the lighting in the church. Approval has been given for Finney Electric to replace all of the light fixtures in the ceiling, with newer, yet very similar ones. These lights will use the newer fluorescent bulbs which conserve energy, are much cooler, last much longer and will illuminate the space much more efficiently. These new lights will not change the look of the ceiling from an architectural point of view, but they will make the church look brighter. This project will be completed in the next couple of months.

We are still studying design ideas for the new crucifix, but no decision has been made. I know we are moving slowly, but it is vitally important that we make the right decision so that the new crucifix will look like it

has always belonged there. We need to respect the dignity of the architectural design.

Shales McNutt Construction is currently working on more detailed designs for the elevator that will, hopefully, be erected this fall.

Thank you for your patience and understanding regarding these issues. I am truly humbled by your generosity and honored to be here as your pastor.

In Joyful Hope,
Fr. Tim Seigel