



Dear Friends,

An old adage says, “Into every life a little rain must fall.” While we humans can handle a little water, buildings are not so lucky. An inspection of the Brookfield Parish Center (PC) discovered water seeping into the Music Room. That led to an inspection of the PC’s roof which revealed a crack. Back on the ground, the inspectors removed the ceiling tile to see the crack from below. What the inspectors saw was broad daylight! The “crack” was more of a gash allowing water, not to seep, but to *trickle* down the inner wall of the Music Room which produced mold. We have pictures of the blue sky seen from the Music Room through the PC roof. Further inspection of the roof revealed a situation calling for complete tuck pointing of the Music Room walls and repair of the roof section above.

With the arrival of Fall and the coming of Winter, repairs to the PC have become a top priority. We need to get the roof in order so the rain and snow of these seasons don’t make matters worse. In addition, health concerns demand that we replace the moldy walls in the Music Room before anyone gets sick.

Needless to say, all these repairs cost money, a lot of money. With the current parish collection at 50% of what it was before the coronavirus took control of our lives, our local cash reserves cannot handle the projected cost of these repairs. The Archdiocese, which is suffering the loss of income as much as we, has no money to loan out to any parish. The PC repairs cannot wait until things get better. If we don’t take care of the problem right now, we may face the complete loss of the use of the PC just like we lost the use of the school building...and for the same reason.

We do have a reserve — the monies collected through To Teach Who Christ Is (TTWCI). That program was designed to address the needed upkeep of buildings within St. Barbara parish. The parish even produced a written case statement laying out exactly how that money would be spent. When I became pastor of Holy Guardian Angels, I firmly committed to respect the decisions of the people of St. Barbara, as found in that case statement. The Director of Operations and I had been

preparing to fulfill the desires of the people as found in that case statement. As of this writing none of the TTWCI monies has been spent.

However, the current state of the affairs in the PC has changed the picture. We cannot put off the needed PC repairs. So, I have decided to use the monies in the TTWCI account for the needed repairs. I do not make this move lightly. And this does not mean I have chosen to ignore the decisions of the people who contributed to the TTWCI campaign. But it does mean that some of those projects must be postponed until the parish finances improve.

I am sorry that some of you will be disappointed that the original TTWCI planned improvements won't be made right now. They are not forgotten; only on hold. I hope you understand.

Please pray that we do not experience another discovery like this one. As I've mentioned in past articles, our financial situation is precarious at best. We cannot afford another hit like this one.

On a lighter note, I hope as many of you as can will participate in our parish Patron's Feast Day on October 3rd. We've planned a service project in the morning to help clean up the area parks of litter.

Starting at 3:15 PM, we will have a prayer service and begin the procession of the Blessed Sacrament through the streets of Brookfield and La Grange Park. I will present the monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament to Fr. Mike at the front doors of St. Barbara who will then proceed up Prairie Avenue and hand it over to one of the deacons. From there the Blessed Sacrament will be transferred to others at designated points along the route until the monstrance is handed to me at the doors of St. Louise. After a brief ceremony I will bring the Blessed Sacrament to the altar for benediction and then return the Sacrament to the tabernacle. The Saturday evening 5 o'clock Mass will follow soon thereafter. Since the Feast is a Solemnity for the parish, all Masses that weekend will be the Mass of the Holy Guardian Angels.

I do hope many will join in at least some part of our celebration.

*Fr. Denis*