



An Important Message from the Pastor

As you have heard the last couple of months, our Parish is experiencing some tight financial times. I have been asked a very important question by many parishioners. In fact, as a staff, we have also been asking this for almost a year now.

How does St. Catherine Laboure not have money?

There are many factors that have led us here.

I think we all can say that life after 2020 and living through the Covid-19 pandemic has not been easy for many of us and we have come out the other side changed. The parish has experienced this as well. During the pandemic, people changed the way they attended Mass. Masses were live streamed. People got out of the habit of going to Church each week. As such some of our parishioners do not contribute as much as they used to, some are not giving at all and many parishioners have yet to return. We are working very hard to re-invigorate the SCL community. This starts with attending Mass on the weekends. We encourage you to invite someone you have not seen for some time to consider worshipping with us again. I think those of us here long for a full and joyful church when we come together on Sunday.

Another sign of our current times is the unfortunate reality of inflation. Our operating costs, as I am sure you have noticed with your own household costs, have risen. We too deal with rising healthcare costs, utilities and other regular expenses. May we prayerfully ask that you consider your ability to make an incremental increase in your contributions to St. Catherine Laboure Parish?

And just like at home, there are often unexpected expenses that must be addressed. Unforeseen mechanical repairs and /or replacement, our HVAC system for instance, are necessary but unplanned expenses incurred to maintain our day-to-day activities. These have been significant costs that have affected our general revenue.

We did retire our debt last Fall, which is great news, but the final years of serving that debt while revenues were in decline more than exhausted our reserves. We did not fully realize just how depleted our unrestricted funds were until we transitioned to the Shared Accounting Platform.

St. Catherine Laboure is a generous parish, especially to causes to help the poor. We have seen that the donations have risen for our specialty funds, particularly the poor fund. These donations are restricted to be used only for those specific purposes and are not allowed to be used for the day-to-day needs of the parish. We are grateful for all donations given, but contributions to the general fund allow us to pay our bills and maintain a healthy parish life, insuring St. Catherine Laboure Parish may remain open for many years to come. We must increase our unrestricted general revenue, thus the need for this appeal.

Please know you are in my prayers. We ask you to pray for the continued success and the long life of St. Catherine Laboure parish. We invite you to invest in your faith and our future. I look forward to seeing you this weekend.

Fr. Dominic Ngangah, cm