February 9, 2016

Dear Faithful of St Patrick,

I am writing this letter with the attached financial summary to provide you with an update on the financial condition of the parish.

I must confess, I am concerned. I realize that I am one of the newest at this parish, and maybe some or most have seen this parish through very tough times, but from my perspective this parish is not receiving enough in donations to pay for its expenses.

Through the first six months of the year (July 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016), we had expenses that exceeded income of approximately \$47k. That is projecting us to have a deficit of almost \$100k by the end of the year (June 30, 2016).

We do not have a considerable amount of expense at this parish. There is a priest (St Patrick pays for one of the three cluster priests), a few employees who are paid partially by St. Patrick and partially by St John (music minister, book keeper, etc) and one part-time employee who is paid solely by St. Patrick (building supervisor). We have utilities, we pay for cantors and musicians to assist with the music, and we donate a certain amount of money to charities. We have two old buildings, which are beautiful, but are always breaking. And that is about it. We keep the heat at 65 degrees at the rectory O.

My hope is that this information will help inform you as you consider your financial support to our parish. We have a savings account with money we received from the sale of the old school, but at the rate our spending is exceeding income, we will be broke and not be able to operate before I am 45 years old!!! While you may say, "no big deal, we have 10 years to figure things out," that is absolutely not true. If, God forbid, we have to replace our roof, or the ground starts to sink around the Church...or some other capital need occurs (I promise a big capital need will occur in the next 10 years), our saving will be wiped out in an instant. We cannot afford to pay our bills now, let alone a mortgage, and we will have no way to continue to operate. Please note, the Irish festival is an entirely separate 503c entity from St Patrick Church. The proceeds from the festival go to where the festival board of directors determines; I have no control over that.

This parish is amazing, wonderful and growing. For 150 years it has brought God to people through the Mass, through prayer, through singing, through the Scriptures, through Confession, through parish charity, through fellowship, and through a million other ways. It would be a tragedy for that ever to have to end.

Please consider increasing your weekly offertory. 5% or even 3% of our salary for most is doable and honors all that God has given to us. Generosity is needed.

I pray the Lord rewards you 100 fold in this life and in the life to come for what you give. **Do not** hesitate to contact me directly with any questions or concerns about this or anything.

Sincerely, Rev. Gino Rossi

St Patrick Catholic Church 213 N. 25th Street Richmond, Virginia 23223 804-737-8028

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