



My Dear Friends and Faithful at Sacred Heart Church,

It is always with concern when I am obliged to speak with our community on the subject of money. Some sage will invariably complain, saying “they are always asking for money.” This is most certainly not true. I come before you once a year to speak about the Diocesan Development Fund, and so now please lend me a kind ear, as I ask you for a generous contribution, as you are able to give.

First, I want to thank each of you for your support in the past and in the present. I sincerely appreciate the sacrifices people have made to move forward to the mission of the Church. Let me say this clearly. Sacred Heart Church is not a place where a small number of people fund and control the whole parish. Every contribution, great and small, is very important and together we are doing great things.

In the second place, I ask for your support for the DDF, or the Diocesan Development Fund. As you know, this is a required assessment from the Bishop to raise money for projects such as the training of new priests and deacons and the acquisition of land for new parishes. Our annual obligation this year is \$186,000. As you are aware, in previous days, this DDF was used in the training of our own Fathers Ian and Jonathan, and other clergy we can name. Please note that we are a young Diocese, and do not have years and years of endowments to draw on and so your kind support is absolutely critical.

In the third place, I am very much aware that we have already another major collection underway, to fund our Pews and Carpets Project, or as I like to call it “feets and seats.” Both of these projects are considerable, but so also are the benefits that both will bring. I am therefore asking for your extra support in both of these projects, one external and one internal. The Pew issue is a one time project, and as you know, the DDF is annual. I would have preferred not to have both of these appeals going on at the same time, but things just worked out this way.

Finally, let me say that our outreach and support of local charitable programs will not be reduced to support these drives. Our support of Read with Me, the San Jose Mission in Thermal, local feeding ministries, the two Pregnancy Centers and others will go on.

As I conclude my fourth year as your pastor I want to express my thanks to each of you for your kindness, on which we depend so much. Good things are happening here and it is because of you, and as always the Grace of God. To Him alone be glory forever.

Father Gregory Elder, Pastor