

October 25, 2010

My dear Sisters and Brothers,

It has been nearly four months since I joined you at Corpus Christi Parish as your pastor. In those months I have seen what a wondrously unique community this parish truly is – a community made up of so many diverse and gifted peoples. I have also come to realize that this parish takes quite seriously the call and mission of Jesus that we have been hearing about in our Sunday liturgies. I have seen how joyfully, prayerfully and thankfully we engage in worship – how seriously we take the religious education of our children and our youth – how lovingly we reach out to those who are ill and those who have lost a loved one – how generously we serve those in need in our parish, our community and even those beyond our boundaries.

Certainly in order for all of this to happen in a vibrant manner in our parish, we need to have good, strong finances. Without sufficient funds, this cannot and will not happen. So therefore, the parish leadership, the Finance Committee and I have begun, once again, the task of addressing finances and our future needs.

Currently, our parish ministry is financed significantly through the Offertory Collection, which is the first collection. This collection supports staff salaries and benefits, maintenance of our buildings, our various parish programs, and everything from insurance premiums to electric bills. For your information, the first collection differs from the second in that the second collection which is taken up each week may only be used for outreach ministry - (except those times when the second collection is an Archdiocesan collection). Second collection monies cannot be used to pay the everyday bills of the parish. So we need to have a very strong First Collection

Unfortunately, while giving to the Offertory Collection increased over the previous year, the level of giving to this collection is still falling short of our projected budget needs for FY 2011. Now the Finance Committee and I have tried to be as conservative as possible when preparing the budget each year. Certainly, the current economy is not making things any easier. I am sure that it has been a trying time for many of you. However, just as your expenses have increased over this past year so too have the parishes expenses – many of which we have little or no control over.

Consequently, the parish leadership and I have decided to continue the Annual Financial Commitment. We are asking you to examine your weekly giving and to decide if it is just enough or too little, and then, to respond accordingly. At both Masses on the weekend of November 6 and 7 we will ask each parish household to make a specific commitment to weekly offertory giving. It is most important that all households take part in this process. For we need every parishioner to contribute regularly, using envelopes, checks or automatic bill pay, in order to be in the position where we can continue to grow as a parish community.

So I ask that you prayerfully consider what God has given to you, how blessed we are as a parish and what exactly you can do in response. **If you decide to change the amount that you give in the Offertory Collection, please begin giving that new amount by the beginning of the new calendar year, 1 January, 2011.**

I know that this is a difficult topic to talk about and to listen to –but I hope that you will welcome this request as an opportunity on your part to become more involved in our parish, its welfare and its future. Rest assured that I appreciate and am grateful for your personal commitment of time, talent and treasure.

If you should have any questions about the program, the parish budget or finances in general, please don't hesitate to call the parish office. And as always, I am

Yours truly in the Body of Christ,

**Fr. Marty**

Rev. Martin H. Demek

## CURRENT OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

At the end of the last fiscal year (1 July 2009 through 30 June 2010), the parish had 323 registered households. We provided envelopes to 140 households, while another 26 households regularly contributed through their bank's automatic bill pay. Throughout the year, 202 households used envelopes, checks, or automatic bill pay to contribute to the parish's Offertory Collection. An analysis of that offertory shows that a little more than twenty percent of our contributing households gave an average of \$5 or less per week. **Just over a third of all registered households did not give at all, or did not give in a manner that we could track.**

The giving pattern of our parish for an average Sunday is shown in the following chart.

### AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION BY NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS

1 July 2009 through 30 June 2010

Number of Households (323 total registered)	Amount Per Week	Percentage of Offertory
121	no record of offertory giving	0.00%
67	\$ 5 or less /week	4.50%
60	\$ 6 - 15 /week	15.80%
29	\$ 16 - 25 /week	15.40%
28	\$ 26 - 50 /week	26.20%
10	\$ 51 - 75 /week	17.10%
6	\$ 76 - 100 /week	13.90%
2	More than \$ 100 /week	7.10%

## REFLECT ON YOUR GIFTS

I am asking you, together with every parishioner, to consider the gifts that God has given you. Then, compare those gifts to the amount that you return, as an expression of your gratitude for and participation in our important ministries.

Reflect on your spending with regard to such items as fast food, movie attendance or rental, going out to dinner, etc. Think about how these expenditures compare to your support of our ministry at Corpus Christi and what that comparison says about the value of our ministry to you. The above chart indicates that many Corpus Christi parishioners may spend more in a week on pizza than on sharing in the ministry of our parish.

Ask yourself if the portion of your income that you give to the work of God through our parish is enough, too much, or not enough. Review the sample Commitment Card on the last page of this brochure. Then, decide what amount you will indicate when you receive the card at Mass this weekend.

A Commitment Card from each household will allow our Finance Committee to predict our annual income in a reliable manner. We firmly believe that through sound planning, we can avoid financial crises and preserve our parish's well being, now and in the years to come. We pray that parishioners will review these materials carefully and respond to them generously.

# CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH

Estimated Parish Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2011  
1 July 2010 through 30 June 2011  
(excludes outreach ministries)

## EXPENSES

All Salaries and Benefits ( <i>clergy &amp; lay salaries, FICA, health insurance, etc.</i> )	\$ 212,908
Facilities ( <i>utilities, insurance, ordinary repairs, maintenance</i> )	\$ 62,103
<b>Programs</b>	
General Administration	\$ 20,975
Religious Education ( <i>Sunday School – rent, materials, etc., excluding salaries</i> )	\$ 7,066
Liturgy	\$ 13,124
Other Programs & Supplies	\$ 24,043
Diocesan & Special Collections ( <i>Campaign for Human Development, Propagation of the Faith, etc.</i> )	\$ 13,948
Building Reserve Fund ( <i>church, rectory, school</i> )	\$ 20,000
Archdiocesan Cathedraticum ( <i>tax</i> )	\$ 45,339
Miscellaneous ( <i>Catholic Review, votive candles</i> )	\$ 1,078
<b><u>TOTAL PARISH EXPENSES:</u></b>	<b>\$ 420,584</b>

## INCOME

Offertory (First) Collection – <i>envelopes, checks, automatic bill pay, loose cash</i>	\$ 275,271
Rental Income ( <i>Midtown Academy – school building, MICA – parking lot</i> )	\$ 71,807
Religious Education Income ( <i>Sunday School tuition, marriage prep fees</i> )	\$ 7,000
Diocesan & Special Collections	\$ 13,948
Wedding Stipends	\$ 22,200
Other Income ( <i>gifts, grants, Mass stipends, diocesan subsidy, interest, misc</i> )	\$ 28,508
<b><u>TOTAL PARISH INCOME:</u></b>	<b>\$ 419,163</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL INCOME NEEDED FOR FY 2011:</b>	<b>\$ 1,421</b>

## COMMITMENT WEEKEND

At both Masses this coming weekend you will be asked to indicate the amount that you wish to give weekly. If you give monthly, quarterly, etc., please indicate the average weekly amount of that gift. A sample of the Offertory Commitment Card is shown at the bottom of this page.

Please carefully consider the gifts that God has given you and contribute part of them to help with the work of the parish. Come prepared to complete the Commitment Card that will be provided. **We will ask you to begin giving the indicated amount by 1 January 2011.**

### HOW MUCH SHOULD WE GIVE?

Many people ask whether or not there is a standard for giving. Each person or family must arrive at that conclusion independently. However, the following scale is provided in order to serve as a guide for those who are interested in using it.

#### Suggested Weekly Offering

Annual Household Income	4.0%	3.0%	2.0%
<b>\$20,000</b>	\$15.00	\$11.00	\$8.00
<b>\$25,000</b>	\$19.00	\$14.00	\$10.00
<b>\$30,000</b>	\$23.00	\$17.00	\$12.00
<b>\$40,000</b>	\$31.00	\$23.00	\$15.00
<b>\$50,000</b>	\$38.00	\$29.00	\$19.00
<b>\$60,000</b>	\$46.00	\$35.00	\$23.00
<b>\$70,000</b>	\$54.00	\$40.00	\$27.00

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Below is a sample card that you will receive at Mass this weekend. Please determine which member of your household will complete the card and what your commitment will be before coming to church.

### Sample Offertory Commitment Card

*"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."  
1 Peter 4:10*

Corpus Christi Church is asking all parishioners to review the amount that they give to the parish offertory and to determine whether that amount is enough or not enough. My/Our new average WEEKLY commitment for the 2011 calendar year will be:

- \$100  
  \$75  
  \$50  
  \$40  
  \$35  
  \$30  
  \$25  
  \$20  
  \$15  
  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_