

Immaculate Conception

Roman Catholic Parish & Guadalupe Mission-Yuma

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August 12, 2010

Dear People of God:

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you, since my arrival to this community, I have felt so welcomed by the clergy (Priests and Deacons), Religious Sisters, lay ministers and the whole community.

At this point in time you already know through the letter that Msgr. Richard W. O'Keefe wrote to you that we are facing a very significant financial challenge as a result of several factors such as:

1. Global and nationwide economic crisis
2. Management issues
3. Church scandal
4. Our commitment to the Capital Campaign and the Annual Catholic Appeal

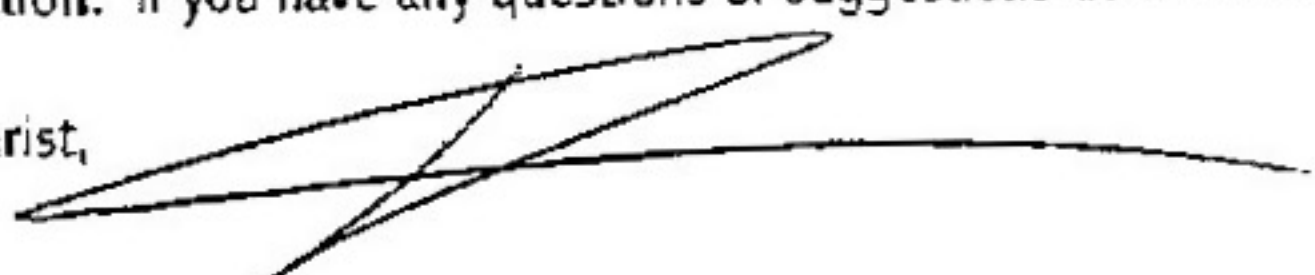
I want to let you know that since my arrival as your new Pastor, I have been working very hard to address and resolve this financial challenge.

1. I have been working with the Finance Council and staff to improve the internal controls of the operation of our church and school.
2. Last Wednesday Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas through his Vicar General, Father Albert I. Schifano, requested a special meeting with the Corporation and Finance Council of the Parish in order to approve a plan to address this challenge and also to give some strong recommendations in order to significantly improve the financial situation of the Parish.
3. For the past two weeks I have been working with the Finance Council to create a plan to address this financial challenge. This plan has been approved by the Board of Directors of this Parish Corporation. The main objectives of this plan are:
 - a. To develop a short-term financial plan for meeting operational requirements.
 - b. To analyze and revise the approved FY 2011 budget by September 30, 2010.
 - c. To develop a strategic plan for defraying the long-term liabilities.

I need your prayers, understanding and your support because I have made some significant and tough decisions to start resolving this challenge that we face as a community of faith. My heart breaks but I had to let some of our great employees go because we cannot afford their salaries. In fact, two of our Franciscan Sisters are willing to work without any compensation. I am having monthly meetings with the staff, the Finance Council and very soon with the Parish Council to find ways to minimize expenses and to improve revenue. The light bulbs in the Church, Rectory, Convent, School and Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission have been changed for energy saving. We are more careful with the use of the air conditioner. Lights that are not necessary are being turned off. We are going to be more conservative in the expenses by getting only those things necessary for the operation of the Church and School. You have seen some remodeling in the Church and School, but it has been funded by special grants through your generosity to the Capital Campaign (Our Faith, Our Hope, Our Future) and Annual Catholic Appeal.

Finally I want to let you know that I am going to keep you informed on a quarterly basis about the financial situation. If you have any questions or suggestions do not hesitate to call me or ask me at anytime.

In Christ,


Father Javier Perez, V.F.,
Pastor