



St. Ignatius Catholic Church

3400 S.E. 43rd Avenue, Portland Oregon 97206

Dear Parishioners,

May 12, 2017

Please join our *"Spring into Action"* campaign – to bring down our operating deficit.

Thanks to everyone who attended the assemblies after Mass during the past two weekends. You heard the explanation for our projected deficit of \$216,000 (at fiscal year-end, June 30, 2017) if our current rate of giving continues. The deficit today is \$184,000.

The deficit comes from the need to pay for our expanded mission. Pope Francis called us to take special care for ecojustice, our families, faith formation, and those alienated and on the margins of community. The recent Jesuit General Congregation said that every ministry of the Society of Jesus must aim to bring about reconciliation. How? By working with lay partners and by networking with other Jesuit institutions to create regional hubs of Ignatian influence. After a year of discernment, our Pastoral Council endorsed our expanded parish mission for ecojustice and family life.

Two years ago, our Finance Team expected that there would be a lag between the added expenses of expanded ministries and the amount coming in from our Sunday collection. The last two years we paid for the shortfall from our savings. Even though sixty new households have joined the parish each year during the past five years, and our Sunday collection is up 8%, fewer gifts and bequests for the parish have been received. This means additional revenue is needed to support our mission.

During the response part of our weekend assemblies, parishioners made the following suggestion to bring down this year's deficit:

Ask each household to contribute \$100 to the "Spring into Action" Campaign by the end of June. Some households can give more, some less. I ask everyone to do your best to do something. Enclosed you will find a self-addressed envelope to send in your \$100 toward our *Spring Into Action Campaign*. Please make your check payable to St. Ignatius Parish. You can mail your offering to the parish office or drop it into the Sunday offertory basket.

What about the long-term giving for the years ahead? Our Stewardship Team, with representatives from the Church, School, and School Foundation are working together on strategies to improve revenues on an ongoing basis. One idea is to average our expenses among our households. As the parish plans our budget for 2017/18, we anticipate that our mission will cost \$900,000, of which 85% (\$765,000) comes from

tithing and 15% (\$135,000) from other income (such as Italian Dinner, bequests, gifts and fees for services). \$765,000, divided by 963 registered households is approximately \$800 per household divided by 12 months = \$67.00 a month or \$15.50 a week. Of course, some families will not be able to contribute the average amount of \$15.50 a week. Some households will be able to give more, some less. The challenge is (1) for those who give to give more; (2) for those who don't give to begin giving something.

Another suggestion was to have secure payment options using up-to-date technology that allow for more convenient donations. This is currently being set up. **Another suggestion was to arrange for a monthly payment from your bank account.** It bypasses the fee that the parish pays for those who use credit cards. (Call Patty Frangipani if you need help setting it up: 503.777.1491, x. 224). **Another suggestion was to have a forum on estate planning** – so we would know how to include the church and school in a percentage of our wills. **Another idea was to publish each month how much money the Sunday collection is generating** so we could know how we're doing.

St. Ignatius Parish is amazingly generous. In addition to contributing \$120,000 annual tuition support for our school children at St. Ignatius School, and another 8% tax to help archdiocesan programs, we give to dozens of other special collections over the course of the year while providing maintenance and replacement for our aging physical plant. The vitality of our liturgies continues to draw Catholics from all over the city, as well as seekers who want to be with us because they cherish what they find here. We can all be grateful for the wonderful spiritual vitality reflected in the active participation of so many in our parish. My prayer is that we continue to model a generosity made bold by the Lord's generosity to us.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Craig Boly SJ". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Craig Boly, S.J.

Pastor

PS Our merciful Father will not be outdone in generosity.