

**April 2018**

**Re: Annual Catholic Appeal Project: Light and Sound**

Dear Parishioners

**Please join me in supporting the 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal and giving the Church in Western Washington the means to radiate the Joy of the Gospel.**

Your donation helps prepare seminarians for the priesthood, fund catechetical instruction, support ministries to the poor, and even subsidize Dominican efforts, like the Catholic Newman Center at the UW.

**Our share of this year's Annual Catholic Appeal is \$98,766.** However, every dollar given over and above our mandatory goal is returned to us by the Archdiocese for our own parish needs.

**This presents us with an exciting opportunity to address two projects I've heard parishioners ask me about regularly:** the broken lighting system and the poor sound quality in parts of the church. The staff and I have consulted the Finance Council on these projects, and I'd like to think of them as helping us *proclaim* the Word of God and *illuminate* our spiritual home.

***Proclaiming the Word of God – Upgrades to the Church Sounds System: \$35,000***

Praise the Lord – again and again, you have clearly expressed your love for our Dominican preaching here at Blessed Sacrament. And although most of you enjoy our homilies each week, there are many who have consistently commented that it is difficult to hear the readings and preaching with our current sound system. This has been a persistent problem for years. To address the issue, we've had our consultants at Morgan Sound come in to do a full assessment (note: they did not install the original system). They've tried valiantly to fine-tune the system over the years, but the speakers themselves are simply insufficient for the space. A new set of speakers are needed to fully immerse the sanctuary in sound, thus eliminating the "dead spots".

***Illuminating Our Spiritual Home – Repairs to the Broken Light System: \$15,000***

As many of you know, our lighting system had a critical failure at Christmas. To make a long story short, arcing occurred in our electrical control panel which compromised some critical components which regulate the lighting zones. The arcing caused smoke to fill the offices in the back, but, praise the Lord, there was no fire. Our facilities team has been coming in early each Sunday to manually work around the failures so that all the lights can turn on for Mass, going to extraordinary lengths to keep things barely functional. Naturally, this was an unexpected expense.

Thus, in consultation with our Finance Council, I am asking for your help in raising \$50,000 over and above our Archdiocesan goal, thereby stretching our parish goal from \$98,766 to \$148,766. Last year we raised \$164,037.25. With your help, I'm confident we can reach – and beat – our goal this year.

**Would you repeat your ACA gift from last year, and if your means allow, even consider increasing it to help fix the lighting and sound systems in the Church?** Thank you for your prayerful consideration. I truly appreciate all the sacrifices you make on behalf of our parish.

Sincerely yours in Christ and St. Dominic,

  
Fr. John Marie Bingham, O.P.  
Pastor