

Saint Richard Parish
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Dear parishioners and friends of St Richard Parish,

As you know very well by now, since October of 2016 I have been meeting monthly with interested parishioners to find ways of improving the financial stability of St. Richard Parish. Last March 8th 2017 at 6:00 PM, we had our concluding meeting to evaluate the various ideas and continuing action items that were fruits of the brainstorming sessions. A summary is as follows:

WeShare Online Giving. This was the first action item suggested at the October 2016 meeting. Via regular pulpit and Bulletin announcements as well as via our parish web site, for the past four months we have been encouraging parishioners and friends to adapt it as their way of giving to our parish. Thus far, only seven (7) have responded to our call most if not all of whom are regular contributors to our parish but only switched from weekly envelope form of giving to online. We will continue our Bulletin and web site invitation to online giving.

Direct Mail Campaign to benefactors and friends from far and wide to increase awareness of and response to the needs of our parish. Hopefully, this will promote in particular increase use of WeShare program (see item # 1) as well as donation for our solar installation (see item # 3). This "Direct mail Campaign" is a project spearheaded by Ann Dunham. At the meeting I gave to Ann our mailing list and before I leave for vacation next week she will work with me on the wording of the letter to be mailed by the end of next week.

Solar Power Project. Ed Carry, Joe Tatusko and Jackie Larsen had solicited solar installation bids and three proposals were presented at the meeting. While we are still studying the different bids, one thing is for sure: we need to begin fund raising for this project at this time. Based on the various figures presented, the parish donation goal is \$ 60,000 which we hope to raise by the summer of 2017. At that time we hope to be able to select the solar company and begin construction. The payback period will be about 5 years based on our annual \$ 12,500 HVAC utility bills and the solar modules and inverters have a 20-25 year warranty. Communication regarding the progress of our fund raising will be provided in the Bulletin, mailings and handouts.

A Plan that will reduce our monthly telephone and internet access bills. Again thanks to Ann Dunham, she will work on adapting a cost-saving "Telephone/Internet Access Plan" for our parish office.

The final selection of the solar company will be done by the St. Richard Parish Finance Council either at its regular meeting or at a special Finance Council meeting that I may call for this purpose. As of the moment the four holdover members of our Finance Council have been reinforced by three new members. Very soon I will announce the composition of our 2017-2020 Parish Finance Council.

Once again, thanks to all of you dear parishioners for your continued support of St. Richard Parish. Special thanks to those who had been faithfully attending the monthly brainstorming sessions since October of 2016 until its concluding meeting last March 8, 2017. Some of them have accepted my invitation to become official members of our Parish Finance Council for the next three years.

God bless you all, abundantly.

Sincerely,

Fr. George "of the desert" Decasa, Pastor