

Dear Parishioners:

As we look back on this past year, we celebrate God's faithfulness and the many ways His Spirit has been at work in and through our parish, enabling us to serve others and bring hope to our community and beyond. Your prayers, volunteer efforts, and support have strengthened our mission as we deepen our relationship with Christ and one another.

Reflecting on a year marked by growth, service, and the grace of God guiding every step, we saw Mass attendance increase and parish events grow. Fall celebrations began with the school's annual Harvest Fest followed by our first Trunk or Treat event, which promises to become a perennial favorite. Winter fun included our Chili Cook-Off and Snow Day, followed by the Christmas Angel Tree party. Lent commenced with the Ash Wednesday Soup Dinner followed by the weekly Fish Frys, and we capped off the Easter Season with our Parish Picnic.

Throughout the year, fellowship continued with Sunday Donuts and Pancake Breakfasts, including a welcome breakfast for new members of our parish. Fr. Kline and Deacon Peter continued to host their popular series on "The Chosen", weekly bible studies were ongoing, and we worshiped and prayed together at the Men's Retreat, Women's Lenten Retreat, and Couples' St. Valentine's Day Retreat. Daily Mass attendees enjoyed morning coffee at The Grotto gift shop and pondered the 'question of the day'.

Ministries played a key role in providing outreach to those in need and supporting our community. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul volunteers continued their mission to feed, clothe, house, and heal individuals and families in our neighborhood thanks to your generosity through quarterly 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday collections, water drives, and food drives. Hardworking parishioners pulled together to create our annual Angel Tree party and provided over 170 children a Christmas they will surely remember for years. Thank you to our Knights of Columbus for hosting Sunday Pancake Breakfasts, Lenten Fish Frys, Ice Cream Socials, the Oktoberfest Dinner, Diaper Drives, Food Drives, and Blood Drives. A special thanks goes to our dedicated Culture of Life ministry for collecting Baby Bottles benefiting Life Choices Women's Clinic, organizing the March for Life at the Capital, providing pro-life workshops like the Gavin Ahern Talk and IVF Presentations, and managing the Care Portal which provides continuing support to vulnerable mothers and children across the valley.

Our Sacred Music Ministry welcomed a new organist and the number of choir members and youth cantors continued to grow, filling our church with beautiful sacred music during Mass and special occasions like the Festival of Lessons and Carols.

Students from St. John XXIII continued their service projects each month including volunteering at organizations like Feed My Starving Children, Miracle League of Arizona, and St. Vincent de Paul Family Dining Room to name a few. Their monthly Faith in Action projects are given to those in need in our community by providing water, school supplies, socks, toys, and toiletries throughout the year. We saw the community come together for Turkey Tuesday to provide Thanksgiving Dinner to hundreds of families and support local Food Pantries. Eighth graders embarked on their capstone Mission Trip and Retreat, providing over 1,200 service hours to organizations helping those in need in San Diego.

Pastoral changes happened as we said farewell to Fr. Darius Ntunzwenayo in June and soon after we welcomed Fr. Chris Gossen. We enhanced our Safety and Security Committee with the addition of new members in the industry, sought expert advice through independent safety assessments, and revised

protocols as recommended. We are grateful for these professionals from the local police, FBI, Secret Service, and security industries who continue to advise us on overall campus safety. May God, our constant protector, watch over our parish and bless our community with peace, vigilance, and grace.

Each June our Parish closes its fiscal year, and we begin working on the Annual Report that we submit to our Finance Council, the Parish, and the Diocese. Below are some highlights of our community:

- Welcomed 336 new families to bring our total number of registered families to 3,017 with an average of 2,087 attending weekend Masses.
- Enrolled 588 students in our PreK – 8<sup>th</sup> grade school, St. John XXIII. 90% of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduating class went on to attend a Catholic High School with 100% acceptance rate.
- Celebrated 19 Weddings.
- Offered a Funeral Mass or Memorial Service to 18 families.
- Celebrated 25 infant Baptisms and 168 Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Communion) in Parish Catechesis.
- 96 individuals prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Welcomed 10 individuals who made a Profession of Faith and joined the Church from other Christian faith traditions.
- Increased perpetual Eucharistic Adoration and grew closer to reaching our goal of 24/7 exposition.
- Welcomed new musicians to our various choirs: 21 children, 23 adults, 12 schola, and 5 men's ensemble. We also have 3 orchestral musicians, providing cello, violin, or both at 3 weekend Masses.
- Increased online giving by 2% to account for 51% of all gifts to the church.
- Repainted the exterior buildings and replaced worn out irrigation lines, purchased new HVAC units and invested in new technology for our students.
- Donated over \$129,000 in charitable giving to organizations representing those in need in our community.
- Provided appliances, furniture, clothing, linens, and diapers to over 900 mothers and children with a considerable economic impact of over \$385,000 through the Culture of Life Care Portal since its inception 3 years ago.

We remain committed to faithful stewardship and we are so grateful to you for giving your time, talent, and treasure to help make us a successful, thriving, and holy community. Thank you for being a living example of Christ's love in action and for continuing to build a community rooted in faith, service, and gratitude.

May God Bless you,

Deacon Al Homiski