

[This is the basic talk given post-homily on Oct 13 and 14 to introduce the Five Dollars a Week Campaign]

Hello, I'm John Gray, a parishioner and a member of the parish Development Committee.

From Father Nick's message in the Bulletin last week, and his presentation today, you know about one chronic problem. Our parish is excellent in many ways, a fine spiritual and social and educational community. But financially, we are subpar. We do stretch every dollar, squeeze every nickel, and pinch every penny to wring out all their value, but our disposable income chronically falls short of our operating expenses.

The solution is not drastic, not terribly demanding, and simple to accomplish. On behalf of your Parish Development Committee, I introduce to you the Five Dollar a Week Campaign. The simple request we make is this: Can each of us increase our giving by Five Dollars a Week?

Whether you put cash or checks into the basket, or mail in an envelope, or do automatic transfers through the parish's EFT tool, or through your bank's BillPay function, these all constitute "the collection", from which our operating funds are derived. We ask everyone who gives: Think about it. Pray about it. Can you increase your gift by just Five Dollars a Week? And if there is anyone who isn't giving, we ask: Can you start?

You may say "Five dollars more a week, what difference would that make?" There are about 750 households registered in the parish. If 200 of these gave \$5 a week more, that would add well over \$4,000 to the parish's monthly operating fund. That would be major. And what about 250 households, or do I hear 300.... ? These many small pieces would add up to a large improvement in our ability to carry out our mission.

We call this a Campaign, but we promise it's a short one. Next week and the week after, you will hear at Masses testimonies from fellow parishioners about why they give and how they give. They will urge you to be part of this Campaign. On the first weekend in November, the Campaign closes. We call that Commitment Sunday, and there will be pledge cards you can fill out and turn in. In December, we hope we can announce the results of a successful campaign. We hope we can tell you that for calendar year 2019 we can plan on actually meeting our routine expenses.

By the way, you don't need to wait for Commitment Sunday to respond. When I knew last week that I would have to be speaking to you, I went and made my increase. I made sure to put a little money where my mouth is. Feel free to do the same at any time. And if you need any help or further information, contact Norah at the parish office.