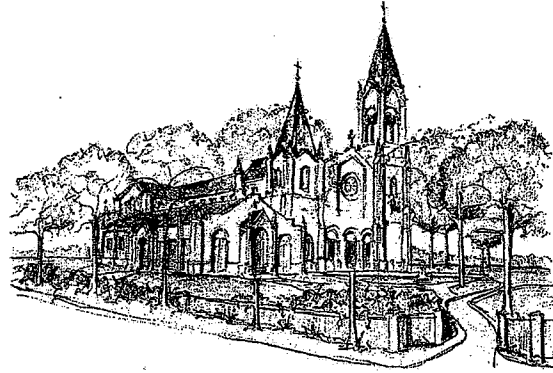


January 10, 2018



Dear members of St. John the Apostle Parish:

Greetings to you all...and Happy New Year!!! I am writing this letter to provide an update on several of the projects that are underway here in the Parish!

- 1) **The Rectory Repair Project:** this endeavor has been underway for 7 months now....and much progress has been made...but there is still much to be done: we remain optimistic that we will be able to move back in by mid-June! We encountered a bit more asbestos mitigation than initially expected, as well as a lot more lead paint mitigation; and we also discovered a great deal more termite damage: and while there are no signs of active termites (the parish has been proactive in treating and inspecting since acquiring the property in 1987) ...the damage done in previous decades has proved to be rather extensive...with numerous floor and ceiling structural beams compromised, as well several foundational structural support and plate beams, and areas of sub-flooring and wood floor damage, etc. We had to engage a structural engineer to come up with approved plans for repairs and restoration of structural integrity in various parts of the house and basement: accomplishing these repairs set our time-table back a bit, and added some extra costs to the project; but now that they are done the rest of the repairs are moving forward! The new plumbing and electrical lines are rapidly being installed, and the new HVAC systems and ducting are soon to be completely installed...in fact one or two of them have been made operational in order to allow heat to parts of the building.... which I know has been greatly appreciated by the contractors during these extremely cold days! The rotten and damaged exterior wood fascia elements have been repaired or replaced, and the repointing of the exterior brickwork is almost complete.... the house, on the outside, is looking fantastic.... the inside less so at the moment! Window repair and restoration will soon be underway....and by mid-March we hope to be working on interior painting and repair of the wood flooring! We have opened up the entire 3rd floor for use (it has been uninhabitable for many decades and only used for storage) ...and with the extra living space I am hopeful that we will, perhaps, see another priest assigned to the parish in the near future!
- 2) **The Church Lighting Project:** I am sure that many have noticed, over the last 5.5 years, that various lights in the Church have gone out.... virtually all the ceiling lights are out, as well as

✠ ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH ✠

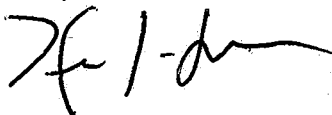
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much of the sanctuary lighting, and some of the chandelier lights are going out too. While this is to be expected...the problem we encounter is no easy way to replace these bulbs...to do so will require extensive scaffolding to be erected in order to access the ceiling and chandeliers, and other less accessible lights around the church. This is a costly process that, given the nature of the lighting system in place, needs to be done every 4-5 years: essentially, we are on borrowed time...with more and more lights progressively going dark! In an effort to save on these costs (which could run \$20-25,000 every 4 to 5 years), and to save on energy costs, we are going to replace the entire lighting system in the Church...moving to a wireless LED system. This new system will, under our present usage pattern, allow for a bulb replacement cycle of every 12-15 years rather than every 4-5 years; furthermore, it will save us an average of \$9-10,000 per year in energy costs; and finally, with its wireless control system, a great deal of diversity with regard to new lighting schematics and usage. The work is schedule to commence on January 24th and continue through February 9th: during this time, apart from the weekends, the Church will not be open to the public; and on the weekend, we should be able to operate as usual, with the exception of some scaffolding remaining in place and some parts of the Church roped off. I ask for your patience during these weeks, and I know that we all look forward to a more well-lit Church going forward!!!!

- 3) The Cemetery Columbarium Project: I think most of you know that next to the Rectory we have our Parish Cemetery: which has been expanded several times over the past 30 years, and there is still room for additional expansion (but that is a future project!). At present the cemetery is comprised of only in-ground plots, but there is a good deal of room for us to, even now, add columbarium: which will allow for the interment of urns (containing the cremains). I am very pleased to let you know that we are preparing to erect our first columbarium (it is currently being manufactured), and anticipate its delivery and installation in March or April! This columbarium will be comprised of 80 niches (2-3 urn capacity per niche) all with granite facing (the granite facing plates allow for names of the deceased, etc... to be engraved upon them). The installation of this, and future columbarium (of various sizes and configurations) allows our cemetery to continue to expand to meet present and future burial needs of the members of this parish, and Catholics from neighboring parishes. I am looking forward to being able to dedicate this columbarium in the near future; and know that it will enhance the beauty of our cemetery while, at the same time, fulfilling a practical need.

I thank you all for taking the time to read this letter...I will continue to keep you all updated on the progress of these projects, and the implementation of any others, as we move forward into this new year! Please pray for the successful completion of these projects, and for the well-being and safety of all those who are working on them! In closing, please know that you all remain in my daily prayers;

Sincerely in Christ,



Fr. Kevin J. Larsen
Pastor