



OUR LADY of MERCY
CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Dear Parish Family,

As a first-time pastor, I've been learning many things. For example, I've learned to be patient with our recent projects, as we have had many since I arrived! Some examples include the Adoration Chapel, outdoor Stations of the Cross renovations, our rectory addition for seminarians & another in-resident priest, our circle drive and the pathway to the Adoration Chapel. None of these projects went without some need for time and patience. I'm beginning to learn a new experience as a pastor: always be ready for the unexpected.

At the beginning of last year, we were able to work with an HVAC company to get rebates on three of the five HVAC units that help cool and heat our various rooms, including the Narthex and Church. These five units were original units from when the building of the Church was completed in 1998. Thankfully, this project was expected and was able to be included in the budget.

However, that didn't include two HVAC units remaining. Our hope was to use long-term maintenance on these twenty-six-plus-year-old units to extend their life a little bit longer. Unfortunately, after battling the temperatures of the Church over a couple of hot weekends, and you might have experienced it yourself, it was apparent we needed to replace the last two HVAC units.

These last two units have outlasted their shelf life of twenty years by six additional years. But in order to replace these 35-ton units, you can probably imagine that it comes with quite the price tag, and it is indeed over \$140,000.

We have a blessing and a challenge. The blessing is that we have savings to cover the expense of the two 35-ton HVAC units. However, as the pastor, I don't want to rely entirely on our savings because I know we will have other challenges in the future. For example, our Parish Life Center, which is seven years younger than the Church, has three even bigger HVAC units that will need to be replaced in the next few years.

The hope of this letter and special collection envelope is to make you aware of this unexpected expense and ask/invite those who are able to contribute to help make it possible to continue to worship in an enjoyable temperature-controlled space. As the pastor of Our Lady of Mercy, please know of my gratitude for the generosity of all our parishioners in making this a beautiful place to come and encounter Jesus Christ and the Body of Christ, the Church.

Fr. Michael T. Kearney