

March 2020

With the season of Lent just around the corner, we begin this letter on a note of thanks for your response to two areas of special interest.

- **Thanks to the many Parish members who have made a commitment to the parish by turning in the pledge cards. To date we have received 350 pledges reflecting a total of just over \$500,000.00, which we will use as the basis of our budget for next year. If you haven't already done so, please consider making a pledge for 2020.**
- **Thanks also to those who have made a special contribution to the Festival deferment fund. So far, we have received over \$13,000.00 toward the \$30,000.00 we budgeted. You will find a line added to the return portion of each monthly mailing. We welcome your donations any time before June 30th this year.**



Ash Wednesday is upon us next week and with it we begin our yearly season of renewal together. The Church calls us all to the Biblical principles of **Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving** over the weeks as we prepare for Easter together. There are several special ways to pray in addition to our own personal prayer and attendance at Mass. Lent offers us special times to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Stations of the Cross. Information on these and other great spiritual activities are found in the bulletin and on the parish website.

We have been told that **Fasting** is good for the soul. It's also good for the body. There are several ways to fast. We can intentionally refrain from food and we can also work on curbing our bad habits by refraining from actions and even attitudes that are unhealthy for our lives and our Spirit.

This year our Community **Almsgiving** will once again benefit "Congo Helping Hands" through our Parish member Jeff Mullins. Many people have offered their support individually and by attending the Spaghetti Dinners for the Missions over the years. The Bulletin this weekend recalls some of the activities of the past several years. This Lent we are invited to be a part of an effort to provide help for St. Joseph School in Kananga in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is close to the places of our past activities, and their critical needs cannot be met without our help. Jeff will share information about the scope of this new project with us this Lenten Season. Your previous response to all our Lenten Almsgiving activities have been very generous and genuinely moving. They reflect our Parish commitment to outreach locally and globally.

Thanks again for the support that you provide to the parish. We are partners together in building up the kingdom of God as people of faith, hope and love. May the Season of Lent be a time of special grace and growth for us all!

Sincerely,
Fr. Jeff and Fr. Thomas