

Dear Notre Dame Parishioners,

As we begin the New Year of 2026, I would like to share a brief update on our parish and to thank you for your faith, patience, and love for Notre Dame during this time of transition. After six months as your pastor, I am grateful for the many signs of commitment and care I see in this community.

Our parish buildings are an important part of our shared life of faith. They are places where we worship, learn, and gather, and they should reflect the reverence and love we have for God. Like many parishes, Notre Dame is addressing the effects of years of deferred maintenance. While this presents challenges, it also offers us an opportunity to care more intentionally for the gifts God has entrusted to us.

I am especially grateful for the work of our maintenance team, whose increased presence and attention have already made a noticeable difference in the care of our buildings and grounds. Over the past six months, approximately \$70,000 has been invested in repairs and updates, including work on sound systems and the organ, water leak repairs, pew repairs, and general maintenance. These efforts are helping to stabilize our facilities and improve their overall appearance and function.

Looking ahead, a professional study—recommended by the Pastoral Council—has helped us identify the long-term needs of our parish. These include future replacement of the church roof and heating systems, eventual repaving of the parking lot, repairs to the rectory, and, as resources allow, aesthetic improvements to the church interior. While these needs are significant, they are not unexpected, and they will be addressed thoughtfully and responsibly over time.

I am working closely with the Pastoral and Finance Councils to discern the best way forward. Safety-related concerns will always receive first priority, while other projects will be planned as funds and circumstances allow. There is no expectation that everything be done at once.

Most importantly, please know that Notre Dame Parish remains a vital faith community. As we continue the process of being joined more closely with Queen of All Saints Parish, my hope is that we move forward with confidence, unity, and trust in God's providence. Together, we can care for our parish in a way that honors our past and prepares us well for the future.

Also, I want to congratulate the parish of Notre Dame on the exceptional final push we made for the CSA. We surpassed all my expectations. Although the numbers are not tabulated from the Diocese, it seems that we went over our CSA goal by around \$30,000. All the monies collected which are above our goal will return to the parish to assist us with future ministries and building issues. I hope that next year we can begin the initial push of the CSA with a lot of enthusiasm and gusto. It is a great way to bring in extra revenue to the parish for future projects.

Thank you for your continued support, prayers, and generosity. Please be assured of mine as well.

Peace,
Fr. Dave