

July 1, 2011

Dear St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioner:

The gift of your “treasure” in the Sunday Offertory provides our parish with many of the necessary funds we need to pay for all of the things that go into running a parish. As many of you know from your own experience, it takes a lot of money to keep the lights on, our buildings warm or cool, clean and safe.

We offer programs and ministries that serve the Catholic Community of Palo Alto in the areas of: faith formation, liturgy, youth and young adults, evangelization, sacramental preparation, social justice, Catholic education, and outreach to the poor. And of course there are the “not-so-glamorous,” but essential costs of doing business— taxes, insurance, health benefits and pension payments.

We are also grateful to Bishop McGrath for sending us a third priest to serve this very busy and active parish. However, this gift does come without an added cost. We need to find an additional \$70,000 in this year’s budget to cover salary, benefits and housing.

With the advice and counsel of the Finance Advisory Committee, we have increased our Sunday Offertory goal from \$10,000 a week to \$11,000 starting July 3rd. Therefore, I am asking each parish family to prayerfully consider increasing their annual giving to the Sunday Offertory by 5-10%.

To help make it more convenient for you to financially support the parish, we have added an electronic payment option for the Sunday Offertory, Second Collections, Easter, All Souls’ Day, Christmas, and Flower Fund Donations. This offers you the opportunity to make automatic financial contributions from your credit card or bank account to our parish.

If you would like to take advantage of this new time-saving opportunity, please click on the link to our Online Giving site on the Home Page of our website: www.paloaltocatholic.org. From there you will be able to create a login and set up your donation(s). If you have any questions about this program, please feel free to contact Cathy Miller (ext. 24) or Chuck Tully (ext. 20).

Thank you for your past gifts, and let us look forward to the wonderful work we will continue to accomplish by your sacrificial giving.

Sincerely,

Rev. Matthew D. Stanley
Pastor