

MARY QUEEN OF THE HOLY ROSARY CHURCH
601 HILL N DALE ROAD
LEXINGTON KENTUCKY 40503

April 16, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

We hope that this communication finds each of you healthy and safe. The Coronavirus has greatly affected each of our lives, but we truly believe that through our prayers and the boundless strength God provides each of us, we will survive and emerge from this experience. The emotional and financial toll the virus is taking on us individually and as a parish is enormous. Many of us are dealing with real financial consequences from loss of job and income. Mary Queen as a parish is no exception to this reality.

The guidelines issued by the government to combat the spread of the Coronavirus included the elimination of public gatherings and implementation of appropriate social distancing. As you would expect, this has had a dramatic effect on our offertory and the corresponding financial health of our parish. The Finance Council and parish leadership, working together, are taking steps to manage the financial impact to the church and to the school.

Our primary focus from a financial standpoint has been to conserve cash. Our ability as a parish to withstand this situation is much improved compared to what it once was. The school's financial position is less favorable, however. Without full payment of monthly tuition or a reduction to operating expenses, the school's cash reserves will be depleted in approximately one month. With respect to both the church and the school, it is critical that we do what we can to ensure that our operating cash is not depleted.

In preserving needed cash reserve levels, we are focusing on the amount of cash coming in and on controlling cash out-flow. Not surprisingly, our first offertory collections after "stay at home" became the norm were significantly less than what is needed to meet our ongoing costs. Many of our parishioners have now responded to Father Dan's appeal, though, and are making their offering by mail, on-line through the Mary Queen website, or dropping them through a mail drop in the parish office front door. As a result, our March 2020 offertory collection actually exceeded the March 2019 offertory by a small amount. Thank you! It is critical that we continue that momentum, however. We are very concerned that our offertory collection for the 2019-2020 fiscal year could be approximately \$240,000 under budget.

In managing our cash out-flow during these times, steps have been taken to temporarily reduce our expenditures by approximately \$56,000 per month. These temporary reductions are made possible through a 3-month deferral of mortgage payments on the parish life center agreed to by our lender, a temporary reduction of cleaning contracts, an anticipated reduction in our utility costs, and management of our church and school work force. For example, three members of the parish staff are in the process of either voluntarily resigning or retiring.

Volunteers and remaining staff will assume their duties. The school has had to furlough 18 employees, but it is our hope that there will not be a need to make any further furloughs. We are scrutinizing all expenditures at both the church and the school level, but we will not forget that Mary Queen must remain ready to assist our fellow parishioners who have immediate and real financial needs and have nowhere else to turn.

We ask each of you to remember our church and especially our school during this difficult time. Please continue to make your offertory contributions as you are able in whatever form is most convenient for you. It is absolutely essential that school tuition payments continue to be made on a timely basis. Our hope is that we can reduce our operating expenses as much as possible to account for any decrease in school revenue, but this will only go so far.

With your continuing support, we are confident that our parish, both the church and the school, will emerge from this event with a renewed vigor. Please stay informed of what is happening with our parish by reading the daily updates and other information on the Mary Queen website, mqhr.org.

God bless each of you and let us all pray for our health and safety.

Father Dan Noll, Pastor

Donald Vittitow, Finance Council Chair

Becky Brown, MQHR School Principal

Linda Frazer, Parish Pastoral Council Chair