

## **Our Parish Needs Our Help!**

February 10, 2009

Dear Fellow Parishioner:

As members of the OLL Finance Council, we believe that it is necessary to reinforce Father McCain's message that was contained in OLL's January 18, 2009 church bulletin: Our parish is facing financial challenges, both immediate and long-term. This is because we are experiencing rising operating costs and declining offerings. The shortage in offerings did not just start in 2008, but has been with us for several years. In fact, the parish will end its actual fiscal year 2008 (July – June) with a deficit of more than **\$60,000.00**.

Even though we have enforced tight budget and expense controls, it has been necessary to cover budget shortfalls by using funds from our reserve account. Our ability to look to the reserve account to bail us out in the future has run its course. Prudence and experience dictate that we maintain the reserve account at its current balance for major unexpected events.

We are now beginning to work on the fiscal year 2009 budget. Based on our actual financial condition for this fiscal year, we will have no choice but to lower our budget amounts for the coming year, potentially forcing a significant reduction in services.

### **But this need not happen. This is where we all come in.**

As Catholic stewards we know that our contributions to our parish pay untold benefits that help to build the Kingdom of God in the hearts of His people. We have to realize in simple terms, that putting God's priorities before ours is the best way to thank Him.

We all tend to get into a rut; i.e. giving the same amount week after week, year after year. In fact, some believe the parish can function without any offerings, and therefore contribute nothing.

For those who do contribute on a regular basis, we express our sincere appreciation. Unfortunately, we need to ask you to dig a little deeper and increase your offering by 10% to 15% but no less of an increase of between \$2.00 to \$5.00 consistently per week.

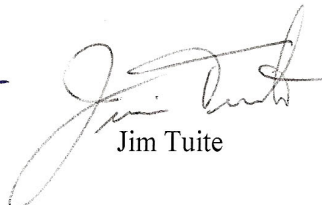
For those who have not participated in the past, we ask that you begin now, if at all possible. Whatever amount you can give will go a long way in addressing the problem our parish faces.

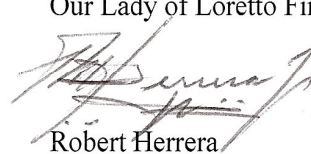
As members of the OLL Finance Council, we need to know that this message is being heard. We welcome you to contact any of the council members through the parish Web site ([www.ollnovato.org](http://www.ollnovato.org)) with any questions or ideas that you might have and encourage you to do so. Thank you for your time in reading this letter and we are praying that you will consider the parish's current financial situation and for the love to Our Lord and with our prayers, we will find the way to help our Church.

Yours in Christ,  
Our Lady of Loretto Finance Council

  
Sylvia Reali

  
Greg Erigero

  
Jim Tuite

  
Robert Herrera

  
Wayne Richards