

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

October is one of the Marian months in the Church. As we move deeper into the fall it is very much a season of gratitude and generosity. Before we know it, we will be thinking about Thanksgiving and Christmas which also brings to mind the many needs of people, and the necessity to be grateful for what we have. We do so through the eyes of Mary. She, who witnessed her Son heal the sick, drive out demons, gather the lost and forgotten, sees all of us today in need as well.

This month will see three significant asks in our parish. The first is the annual parish stewardship commitment. This is the time of year where we ask you to prayerfully discern how you can support the financial needs of the parish. Your generosity is what funds the operating budget which allows us to be a vibrant and growing parish. I do very much invite you to discern your annual commitment to the parish. As you know, we are not immune to inflation and the rising costs that you experience in your household. In the last ten years we have seen generous stewardship but it has remained relatively flat over that time while expenses have not. In my three and a half years with you I have experienced and witnessed your generosity in many different ways. For this I am most grateful and please know of my sincere gratitude as I make this ask of you.

Secondly, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee operates on our generosity. You will be hearing about the Catholic Stewardship Appeal (CSA) on the weekend of October 19th and 20th. The CSA funds vital ministries of the Church across the 10 counties of our Archdiocese. This includes those in need through services provided by Catholic Charities, the growing number of seminarians, education for deacon candidates and lay leaders who serve our parishes, young people receiving the sacraments and learning the faith through parish religious education programs and Catholic school, and many more important ministries. Please also consider how you may support the CSA.

Finally, we have our sister parish in Haiti, Our Lady of Perpetual Help. June 2025 marks the 25-year anniversary of our sister parish relationship. Grounded in prayer and love we have grown together over the years. Your generosity enables us to support ongoing faith formation, health care, education and community initiatives. Pe Bellegarde, the Pastor, sends his blessing, gratitude and commitment to praying for us as we make our annual mission appeal benefiting the ongoing work established in Latiboliere the weekend of Oct 12-13. This year will feature a message from our sister parish and a member of our Haiti team speaking on their behalf. Unfortunately, it is not feasible to travel here from Haiti at this time. Rest assured that through trusted Haitian leadership and communication via updated satellite connection, the resources we send are used wisely and accounted for. Pe Bellegarde continually tells us that without St Mary's support their life would be much more difficult.

I know this is a lot to ask but I also know we rise to the occasion to build the Kingdom of God through our parish ministries and outreach. May we see the world as the Blessed Virgin Mary sees us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz

Pastor