

Dear brothers and sisters of St. Thomas of Villanova Parish.

Archbishop Hundt has continued to keep our parish up to date on information regarding the abuse claim settlement for the Archdiocese.

As an update, in the later part of December 2021, the Archdiocese removed or took all monies in the operating bank accounts, Mass request bank accounts and any other bank account being held in the name of the specific parishes. In our case it was our operating account and our Mass account. All funds taken by the Archdiocese were put into a single account in the name of the Archdiocese. These funds were to go towards the amount owing the victims of sexual abuse as per the Supreme Court decision.

Each parish was then given by the Archdiocese a specific dollar amount, based on a formula, that would cover the expenses of the parish for approximately 45 days. The amount given to our parish by the Archdiocese was \$17,000. Parishes no longer have overdraft protection provided by the bank. Therefore, each individual parish is responsible for the total expenses that are incurred in that parish: salaries, heat, light, insurance, Archdiocesan Assessment and the other regular expenses required to operate the parish.

Any parish that is not self-sustaining will be closed. You can see how important it is for all parishioners to continue to support our parish. The \$17,000 operating capital, noted above, is a one-time payment from the Archdiocese. The parish now has to depend on the parish collections and fundraising efforts to continue to operate as a parish. We as a parish need to receive approximately \$3,000 per week to cover all expenses incurred. This would normally come from direct giving, fund raising, Hall rental etc. However, due to circumstances at the present time (COVID related) fundraising is very limited. Therefore, direct giving will be very crucial to the survival of our parish.

Please make every effort to get your contributions to the Parish office. We are presently in the process of making E transfers available to parishioners. We will let you know when it is available.

As part of this process the Archbishop attended a meeting at our Parish Hall, January 11, 2022. In attendance were representatives from our Parish, St. Edward's, Holy Family and Holy Rosary parishes. The Archbishop gave an overview of where legal matters pertaining to the Archdiocese were at present. The sale of rectories (Priest's Residence/parish offices) will go to the real estate market. The sale of churches will be offered through a Request for Proposals (RFP). This process may begin during the next few months.

There was general discussion about the possibility of combining the three parishes into one parish with a proposal for St. Thomas of Villanova Church being the home of the new parish. This would require committees raising the necessary funds to acquire the Church for future operations. If there are other offers, this may mean purchasing at market value.

A committee will be formed to investigate the possibility of this combining of parishes. There are still many unanswered questions. Every effort will be made to advise our parishioners of any new developments in this matter.

Once again, thanks for your continued support and contributions to our beloved St Thomas of Villanova Parish.

Fr. Cosmas Iweru, SDV