



Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church
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Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

As I prepare to leave on June 2nd for my summer Canon Law studies in Washington, D.C., I want to share with you some of the exciting things that are happening around Our Lady of the Rosary.

First, after consultation with the Pastoral and Finance Councils, we have recently sold a piece of property that was owned by St. Rose of Lima parish. The property is situated at 1523 North Dorgenois Street and had been used for many years by Catholic Charities. It was purchased by a private couple who plans to renovate the house to make it their home. The income to our parish from this sale was \$237,292.65.

Second, since Bricolage has now come to the end of its three year lease of our school building, I am happy to announce that we have entered into a one year lease with Kipp Believe College Preparatory School. Our income from that lease will remain the same per year as it was for the three years that Bricolage leased the building.

As you know, Msgr. Hedrick worked very hard to bring financial stability to our parish. As a first-time pastor following him, I am extremely grateful for his diligence in this. With the financial strength of the parish and the income from the sale of the property on North Dorgenois St., and after consulting the Finance and Pastoral Councils, our parish has created a quasi-endowment with the Catholic Foundation of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. We are beginning this endowment with an investment of \$500,000. The interest that is accrued each year from this investment, which the Catholic Foundation expects to be between 4 and 5%, will be used for the restoration and maintenance of our buildings and parish facilities. My hope is that, through gifts given generously by parishioners and friends of the parish and through the monthly Restoration and Maintenance collection, we can continue to grow this endowment and so alleviate the financial burden caused by our buildings, which are beautiful, but aging.

Our financial security will also allow us to pursue several projects in the coming months that should prove to be beneficial for years to come.

- We are currently completing a full renovation of the kitchen in the parish office. This renovation was clearly a great need for many years. (I look forward to sharing before and after pictures on the website in the next couple of weeks.)
- We are also in the midst of having all the gutters on the buildings cleaned and repaired or replaced. This project should be completed very soon.

- Early this year, the Finance and Pastoral Councils convinced me of the need to install a generator that would power the rectory (my residence) in case of power outages. While I was reluctant to spend a significant amount of money on my residence, they convinced me with a couple of good reasons. First, a generator would prevent the growth of mold on the walls and ceiling of the house that would inevitably result from a prolonged loss of air conditioning. Second, a generator would give us the ability to make the rectory a center of parish activity and even a refuge for other priests in the case of a prolonged power outage in the city. Having been convinced of the worthiness of this project, I have signed a proposal to have a generator installed this summer, before the height of hurricane season.
- One of the requests that I heard in coffee gatherings and a way of fulfilling the Archdiocesan Synod's call for greater hospitality is to provide handicapped access to the parish office and Vincent Hall. After several unsuccessful dreams and ideas, we have hired an architect and have settled on a plan for a ramp and deck that will provide ADA approved access to both of those buildings. My hope is that construction will be completed sometime in the Fall.
- Finally, we have begun to look at some plans for further beautifying the front of the church. This will include some work in the gardens, addition of some small trees, replacement of old chain link fencing with wrought iron, and addressing the need for an additional sign.

Thank you to all those who have helped and who continue to help in planning and executing these projects. And thanks to everyone who has made generous financial contributions to the parish. The successes of our parish, whether they be spiritual, financial, or material, are due to the hard work of so many of you, dedicated men and women who love Our Lord Jesus Christ and who love Our Lady of the Rosary.

Please continue to pray for the success of our parish, and please pray for me as I bear the cross of leaving home for two months this summer. Know that you will remain in my prayers, even from a distance.

To Jesus through Mary,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Jhemelt', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Fr. Jonathan
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