

Dear Parishioners,

You and I can't help but wonder about issues that assail our country and our pocketbook, ultimately our lives and our future. We know of the astounding national deficit. We hear about a shaky social security. We are confused by the muddle of comments about the Affordable Care Act. Some of us are directly involved in the concern for immigration and family life. All of these burning issues deserve deliberate, careful and informed consideration. Our Catholic Social teaching is the envy of every other Christian denomination. It seeks to be our moral compass through the lens of Gospel values. Catholic Social teaching is rooted in Christ Jesus and is our guide, not just for the issues of the present moment, but for the long haul. We plant seeds but we may not harvest. We plant those seeds due to our faith. We are urged to care not just for ourselves, in this time and place, but for those who come after us, your children and grandchildren. Hence, even our concern for the environment is oriented to the future, as well as any immediate impact. The church is also dependent upon you for its ability to ensure that the values which we hold to be part of the Kingdom of God are transmitted from one generation to the next.

And so, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to a new initiative, a "seeding" initiative, if you will, here at our parish, the *Vivos Christi Society*. It recognizes those who have taken this deeply significant step on behalf of our Church. I invite you to read the enclosed pamphlet, which briefly describes some of the most popular options for planned giving. Many of these gift options, such as wills and charitable gift annuities, not only offer lasting support for our parish but may also provide you and your loved ones with significant tax and/or income benefits as well.

Lest you think this is just another fund raising effort, please consider this: Half of all Catholics die without making any formal estate plans. This is sad for them and their families, as well as for the Church. Sad because without preparation of a will, there may be unintended and undesirable consequences due to the application of state laws. I hope you will receive the information about estate planning as it is intended: to bless you, your family, and all the causes you support. My goal is that each one of our families will develop a valid Will that represents a thoughtful continuation of one's legacy.

If you would like more detailed information on any of the subjects listed in the pamphlet, I encourage you to complete the response card and return it by mail in the envelope provided. We will be happy to send you the information at no charge.

I would also like to invite you to attend the following free seminars here in our Parish Hall:

Estate Planning	Thursday, November 21, 2013	6:30 – 8:00pm
Investments and Insurance	Thursday, January 9, 2014	6:30 – 8:00pm
Catholic Funerals and Living Wills	Thursday, February 6, 2014	6:30 – 8:00pm

Please remember that a planned gift made to our parish or the larger Church also entitles you to recognition in the *Vivos Christi Society*. Our Bishop's annual Induction Ceremony will be held each fall at St. James Cathedral and I would welcome the opportunity to honor you as a new member at both the parish and the Diocesan level.

Planned giving is a beautiful way to leave a lasting legacy for the benefit of Christ's Kingdom, and it is my hope that you will join me in embracing this great opportunity to further the good work of our Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Robert D'Aversa, T.O.R.