



July 2013

My dear parishioners,

This year marks a number of important milestones for the Church: the Year of Faith, a renewed call to the New Evangelization, and the election of Pope Francis.

St. Matthew's Cathedral parish also marks important steps along its own path as we look forward to the 75th Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Washington in 2014 and the 175th Anniversary of the Cathedral parish in 2015. In February, we hosted lively Listening Sessions for more than 100 parishioners to prepare for the year-long Archdiocesan Synod that began on Pentecost. On a personal note, my thanks to all who celebrated and prayed for me as I celebrated 45 wonderful years in the priesthood.

Body of Christ, Body of Faith

Since 1840, the success of our parish has depended on parishioners' generous contributions of time, talent, and treasure; and, your investments deliver results. Together, we provide for the material and spiritual needs of approximately 60 homeless adults **every Monday**. We celebrate 29 masses **per week** –and sometimes more– because parishioners contribute their time to serve as lectors, extraordinary ministers of communion, altar servers, and hospitality ministers. We support dozens of Faith Formation events **every month** for children and adults. **Every year**, we welcome an average of 15 new Catholics from our community into full communion of the Church. Through these and many other activities, ours is an active Body of Faith, working to give witness to the presence of Christ in the DC area.

Envisioning a Roadmap

To ensure our continued success and to plan a roadmap for the future, your Parish Pastoral Council and I recently adopted four high-level goals for 2013-2015 as part of our strategic planning initiative:

Goal One: Create and Sustain a Welcoming, Collaborative, Multicultural Community

Goal Two: Support and Deepen Parishioners' Commitment to the Catholic Faith

Goal Three: Promote St. Matthew's Cathedral as a Witness of Christ's Work to the Community

Goal Four: Build and Maintain a Strong Organizational Infrastructure

These four pillars build on the strong foundations of our parish and will serve as a focus-point to improve our work as we continue on our journey together.

Challenging and Inviting You to Participate

Our Committees and Ministries provide opportunities to contribute to this vision, but achieving our goals requires participation from all of us.

You enhance the welcoming atmosphere in our parish when you introduce yourself to a new parishioner, join the community and share in coffee and hospitality after Mass, and assist new immigrants with their ESL courses.

You deepen others' commitment to the faith when you serve as an RCIA sponsor, participate in our liturgical celebrations, and enjoy some wine and wisdom with the Cathedral Young Adults.

You serve as witnesses of Christ's work when you *donate* to Adopt-A-Family, *run* for vocations, *March* for Life, and *greet* one another as Ministers of Hospitality.

You enhance our infrastructure when you suggest ways for our internal systems to improve, respond to parish surveys, and participate in the Listening Sessions.

Your financial contributions are particularly critical to our infrastructure, whether through bequests, Faith Direct, or in the Sunday offertory. They keep the lights on (literally!), ensure we have sufficient staff to keep programs running smoothly, and cover the costs of visiting priests to celebrate Mass and hear confessions.

Every parishioner is needed. Thank you to everyone who contributes to make our Cathedral's work a success. **We hope you will invest in this vision** as well.

Each one of you is needed. I ask you, as a parishioner of St. Matthew's Cathedral Parish, to pray regularly for the success of our parish. I also challenge you to learn more about our work, and to contribute your energy and ideas to make these four goals a reality, particularly during this time of transition. These acts connect us to God and to one another.

Building connections to our community is easier than it may seem. Please get involved by visiting the *Join Us* section of the Cathedral's website, www.stmatthewscathedral.org/join. If you have general ideas, please feel free to contact me at 202-347-3215 or at rjameson@stmatthewscathedral.org.

Priest Reassignments

As I recently announced, effective **July 10**, two leaders of our parish community, Fr. Evelio Menjivar and Fr. Mark Knestout, will transition to new assignments within the Archdiocese. Our thanks, prayers and best wishes go with both Fr. Evelio and Fr. Mark. We want them to know that they will always be in our thoughts and prayers, and of course, that they are always welcome among us here at St. Matthew's.

Also with gratitude, we look forward to welcoming Fr. Rafael Barbieri de Carvalho as our new Parochial Vicar. Fr. Barbieri, who is from Brazil, was ordained to the Priesthood this June 15 by Cardinal Donald Wuerl. On his first Sunday at St. Matthew's, **July 14**, Fr. Rafael will celebrate the 11:30am Mass and the 1pm Spanish Mass. We just received word that Fr. Mel Ayala will be in residence at the Cathedral Rectory as he assumes the position of Director of the Office of Worship for the Archdiocese, vacated by Fr. Mark. Please take an opportunity this summer to introduce yourself to both new priests and give them a warm welcome.

Special Faith Formation Opportunities

A new year of our Children's Religious Education program will begin in mid-September. Information for families on how to register their school-age children for the program is available in the bulletin and on the parish website. Please contact Heather Kinney at hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org with questions.

We are always looking for parishioners to serve as RCIA sponsors and children's catechists. Both sponsors and catechists often report how much they learned and grew in their own faith by serving in these ways. To discuss either opportunity, please contact Heather Kinney at hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org.

Finally, please keep in your prayers the 24 youths from the Spanish community who received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Most Rev. Francisco Gonzalez, S.F. on May 26, and the 15 children who received the Sacrament of First Communion from Rev. Evelio Menjivar on June 2.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer. May God bless you all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector