

Companions on the Journey

January 3, 2021

Dear Friends,

Well 2020 has finally come to an end. There is a great sigh of relief and a great sense of gratitude for this new year to begin. We all need a fresh start. Personally I tend to think that 2020 was the end of the teens rather than the beginning of the twenties. The last ten-year period has ended and pretty much with a thud except at the very end when the country was able to survive a nasty political climate, and a nasty health pandemic, and a nasty series of decisions to cope during a time where we were all struggling and some rather mightily. Thank God the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit at work in all those seeking to uncover the proper vaccine to end the devastation of the corona virus.

We have arrived at the brink of a New Year. Let us use the past year to help us as we formulate just a few New Year's resolutions. Let's decide to make some changes in our lives and the way we do things that are for the good of more than just ourselves—whether as a family or in our significant relationships.

I want to sound a note of deep gratitude to my wonderful staff here at Saint Anthony's. To a person they are dedicated, selfless, tireless and committed to Our Lord and to the life of our parish. And this year under the most extraordinary of circumstances. I cannot do my job as pastor without them. I really would have been at even more of a loss this year without their creativity, enthusiasm and skill in allowing our parish to continue to function and thrive. If you bump into any of them (figuratively speaking, of course) please thank them for all they do for Saint Anthony's

I would like to extend a word of gratitude to those who made gifts to me. I am grateful for your generosity and thoughtfulness. Some I will use personally and some I will use to benefit those less fortunate. But know how appreciative I am of your care of me as your pastor.

Another reason for deep gratitude is to all of you who have so generously continued to support Saint Anthony's during the pandemic. That is especially true with your extra support of the Stewardship Sunday collection. Because of you we have been able to replace all the lighting in the chandeliers in the church. We are in the process of getting some bids on a new panel to support the lighting structure in the church.

We have made some roof repairs. And done some re-caulking to stop leaks which had sprung up over time. In addition we have had all the carpets sent out for a thorough cleaning and had them back in time for Christmas. We have also been working on our Live-Streaming capability and while we still have some momentary glitches we are pretty much Livestreaming daily Mass, the 10:30 Mass on Sundays and occasionally a funeral or a wedding or even a baptism.

In addition, we have been able to make some improvements to the sound in the Church. It is better but more needs to be done and we will be asking for recommendations and bids from a few different Sound companies so we can finally get over the hump of struggling with our ability to hear in Church.

So there has been a lot accomplished behind the scenes but more still to be done. But you are the ones who make all of this possible and I am grateful.

Peace,

Msgr. McHenry