

Column100321

Companions on the Journey

October 3, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today is Commitment Sunday for our renewed Offertory effort: God's Love Unites Us! We are very blessed here at Saint Anthony's/ We have been a presence in Ambler and the surrounding community for 135 years. That is only by the grace of God. It has taken the devotion, fidelity, sacrifices, participation, service and care of thousands of Catholics to make our parish the outstanding parish it is today. There is a genuine prayerful sense here. The Lord is praised and worshipped here. We sing the Lord's praises here. We reach out to help his people no matter where they come from or how they came to live here. We strive to put flesh on the bones of the hymn we sing: All Are Welcome In This Place.

But without your giving of yourselves and without your prayer and without your financial donations we could not be all that we are, we could not do all that we do. This week each household, home or apartment received a mailing from the parish. There is a brochure inside with some statistics about Saint Anthony's. There is a brief letter from me asking for your help. There is a Commitment card that I have asked you to fill out and bring with you to Mass to place in the basket. This Commitment card will record your decision concerning the amount of financial support you will provide to the parish for its activities and ministries and support. The amount can be a weekly or monthly amount. It can even be yearly or twice-yearly.

It should be an amount that your heart feels good about donating. It should also have a sacrificial point to it, a bit more than you can easily afford. It should not simply come from your surplus. It should come from the heart of your financial situation. I will personally be increasing my own support of the parish. I opted to use E-giving when we started many years ago. It is directly withdrawn from my checking account and I have been doing this for fifteen years. I encourage you to opt for this approach also. Either Credit Card or Checking Account works well. The parish provides wise stewardship of the funds which we receive. We have a Finance Committee and a Stewardship and Advancement Commission. Both are places of great wisdom advising me as pastor.

I know that I can count on you for your support on a regular basis. I thank you for all you have done for our parish, are doing for our parish and will commit to do for Saint Anthony's as we move further into the twenty-first century. I have been greatly blessed to be your pastor these past thirty years. Not many priests ever have the opportunities that have been provided me here. I am grateful more than you know. And especially for all of you who pray for me. Please don't stop. Those prayer—your prayers—make all the difference in the world in my life and ministry.

In the peace of Christ,
Msgr. McHenry