



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

and Holy Trinity Student Center at EMU

Dear Parishioners,

19 July 2013

I am writing to you all to keep you updated on a matter that has been of great concern to both the Parish Council and the parish Finance Commission. As many of you may know, for several years, Holy Trinity has been carrying a substantial financial debt to the Diocese of Lansing for an expansion project. At present, that debt is over \$1,000,000.00. In addition to this sizeable debt, Holy Trinity is also in need of a number of repairs and upgrades that total well over \$100,000.00. These, along with the usual costs associated with operating Holy Trinity, over \$50,000.00 annually, have been very much on the minds of both of our consultative bodies. As for the debt itself, we are expected to pay nearly \$8,000.00 per month to the Diocese, or well over \$90,000.00 per year. For the fiscal years between 2002 and 2013, the Holy Trinity debt payments have *averaged* approximately \$1,400.00 monthly or \$16,900.00 per year. There were, as well, at least two fiscal years between 2006-2008 in which no record of any payment being made at all is evident. Again, this is all of great concern to the Diocese, the Parish Council, the Finance Commission, and I am sure, to all of you.

The parish leadership is actively engaged with the Diocese of Lansing to address the situation and make appropriate decisions, which will ensure the overall health of the parish, and to see that our ministries to both the Ypsilanti area and Eastern Michigan University community are well provided for. The purpose of my letter to you today is primarily to keep you informed of the parish's financial situation in this regard. At this time we are considering as many possible options to satisfy the debt as can be obtained. In the end, much of the outcome of these considerations will rest with the Diocese. The Parish Council and I will do our very best to keep you informed about all of these matters and I expect you will soon hear more on them. Until that time, please keep all of this in your prayers. Our primary concern will always be to provide for the overall needs of the Church and to see to it that we are able to continue to provide for her mission in our community.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Bob Roggenbuck
Pastor