MARCH 26, 2017 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Pastor
Fr. Michael Byron
frmike.byron@stpascals.org

Deacon
Rev. Mr. Richard Moore
richard.moore@stpascals.org

Parish Administrator
Mike Lentz I ext 130
mike.lentz@stpascals.org

Parish School Principal
Laurie Jennrich I ext 113
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Director of Development
Mary Worley I ext 134
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Kim Roering I ext 128
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Welcome Desk
Sarah Mathis I ext 122
sarah.mathis@stpascals.org

MASS TIMES
Saturday - 4:30 pm
Sunday - 8:45 & 10:30 am (ASL)
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday - 7:30 am
Wednesday - 9:30 am
Dear Friends:

Last weekend I offered a talk to a group of adults that focused in part on the question of why Jesus had to die. It is clear from the New Testament that Jesus did in fact die on the cross, and it seems reasonable to assume that that would not have happened if his life could have ended less tragically somehow (say, for example, like the Blessed Virgin Mary being assumed into heaven after having “fallen asleep” at the end of life). So, why? I explained to the group that our long Christian tradition has entertained various theological theories about that. It is safe to assume that Jesus’ followers at Calvary on Good Friday, few though they were, had no idea why: The event was simply baffling and frightening and sad. Surely that is why they all either left town in despair after it was over or locked themselves inside an Upper Room.

Each of the gospels portrays Jesus as predicting to the disciples his forthcoming death and resurrection, but none of them has Jesus offering a specific reason why it "must" have been so. Early theories (including biblical ones) suggested that the reason was "so that the scriptures might be fulfilled" (which begs the question why the Old Testament scriptures predicted that scenario in the first place). Or that it was "so that sins may be forgiven" (which begs the question why God wouldn’t just forgive us without the need for any bloodshed). You can see how quickly this conversation can become very dense and confusing. Later theories about the "why?" included the need to pay a ransom to Satan, or a restoration of God’s honor that was forfeited in the Garden of Eden, or a satisfying sacrifice (a.k.a. "atonement") that was required by God’s justice, or a turning away of God’s wrath toward sinful human beings. Still other theories have been more benign, such as the one that Jesus’ death was a revelation of God’s boundless compassion toward those who suffer unjustly. Others, much more common in contemporary theology, point out that Jesus’ death was the natural predictable outcome to the life of any effective prophet. Because prophets anger people by their words—often powerful, armed people—they are killed. Think Dr. Martin Luther King or many of the Christian prophets from our history. These theories would suggest no need to appeal to "God’s Will" in order to explain the ‘need’ for Jesus’ cruel death.

So which theory is correct? No need to pick any one of them as singularly binding for our faith, and the Catholic church has never taught that we have to. But the fact is that when Holy Week comes around again soon we will all be confronted in the liturgies with the reality of Jesus’ passion and death. And any thoughtful believer will be hearing those stories with at least some vague understanding of how/why it had to be this way. Very good food for Lenten meditation.

And I should add here that various Christian denominations today tend to adhere to one or another of those theories more expressly. For example, some Protestant theories insist that Jesus not only had to die but he also had to experience the most agonizing suffering through torture that any person has ever endured. Catholics don’t insist on that point. That is why I used to like to unsettle my seminary students, many of whom were entranced by Mel Gibson’s movie, "The Passion of the Christ" that I thought it was the most brilliant Calvinist drama ever made. Gibson, as you may know, likes to style himself as uber-Catholic. (What’s a teacher for if not to unsettle?)

Fr. Mike Byron

St. Pascal’s Legacy Society Presentation—Tuesday, March 28 at 6:30 PM in Brioschi Hall

Ethical Wills or Legacy Letters: Passing on Your Wisdom and Values to the Next Generation

Bill Marcella from the Catholic Community Foundation, which maintains the St. Pascal’s endowment, will give a short overview of Catholic Community Foundation followed by a presentation on ethical wills. An ethical will or legacy letter is a way to share your values, blessings, life's lessons, love, forgiveness, and hopes and dreams for the future with your community. Please join us for a glass of wine, a light snack, and an interesting talk. Questions contact Ellen Aeling at ellenoaeling@gmail.com or 307.8241.

Bowl Tenders for Holy Thursday

Liturgy: April 13 at 7:00 PM
Rehearsal: Sunday, April 9 at noon

One of the most prominent ritual actions for this night is the Washing of Feet. As in past years, everyone in the pews will be invited to take part. We need 10 individuals to assist those coming forward to take part in the ritual. When we commit ourselves to be involved in this action, we begin to understand more readily what it means to serve one another. Please contact Sharon Balcom in the parish office if you are willing and able to help!

Ushers and Altar Servers for Funerals

We are in need of ushers and adult altar servers for funerals. Training is provided. If you can assist with these beautiful and important funeral ministries, contact Sharon in the parish office.

RCIA: A Note on the Scrutiny Rites

During the 3rd, 4th, and 5th weekends of Lent, we will be celebrating the Scrutiny Rites with our catechumen, Shariff, who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. The scrutinies have a dual purpose, “to uncover, and heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect and to bring out, then strengthen, all that is upright, strong, and good” (RCIA 141). The scrutinizing does not affect the catechumens alone—this close examination is a communal task of looking at how evil affects all our lives and how we can be liberated from it by Christ’s grace. The scrutinies are a prayer asking for deliverance for the elect—and all of us—from the effects of sins which are named. At the same time, we ask to be strengthened in grace and virtues. The Litany of Deliverance accomplishes all of this over the course of the three Sunday Scrutiny Rites. Let us pray enthusiastically for our catechumen, Shariff, and our faith community.

Holiday Deadlines for the Bulletin

Bulletins go to press early during the holiday seasons—your notices for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday are due in the parish office by 3:00 PM according to this schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bulletin Date</th>
<th>Notices Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 09</td>
<td>Friday, March 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>Wednesday, April 05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Christ We Live Forever

Please remember in your prayers...

Frank Brodniewicz and Rita Weber

who were recently buried from our church. We extend our sincere sympathy to their families and friends, and pray for their souls’ eternal peace.
ST. PASCAL’S SCHOOL NEWS

Hill-Murray School Spring Speaker Series
Wednesday, April 5
5:30 – 7:00 PM — Reception
7:00 PM — Archbishop Hebda
For current Hill-Murray parents and grandparents, former parents and alumni. Don’t miss Archbishop Hebda’s engaging discussion on “Living Your Faith In the Modern World.” RSVP required. Please email jbaecker@hill-murray.org or call 748.2232 to RSVP. Please note this event is adults only—no childcare will be available.

Transfer Student Tuition Discount $1,000
Students transferring to St. Pascal’s from a non-Catholic school (public or charter school) for the 2017-18 school year will receive $1,000 off tuition the first year and $500 off the second year. Students do not need to be eligible for financial aid to qualify for this program.

Save the Date
Preschool – Kindergarten Open House
Saturday, April 22 from 9:00-10:30 AM
Children may come dressed as a favorite super hero or princess and engage in a fun Earth Day craft or activity while parents meet teachers, tour classrooms, and ask questions.

Annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale—We need your baked goodies!
The Women’s Club will be selling your baked goods after all Palm Sunday weekend Masses. Drop yours off at 3:00 PM Saturday, April 8 or one hour before either Mass on Sunday. Thank you for your talent and generosity!

Friends & Family Dinner “Off to the Races”—Saturday, April 22 at 5:30 PM in Brioschi Hall
Tickets on sale after all Masses for only $25 per person...you don’t want to miss one of the funnest fundraisers of the year! Fine dining, entertainment, basket raffle, games, laughter and more.

Gift Cards NEEDED! These will be used as prizes for games as well as part of the “Mystery Gift Box”. Minimum value $10 but cards with higher values are also needed. Please come by our display in the gathering space and pick up a gift card tag. We will be collecting gift cards and monetary donations after Masses or bring the gift card back the following weekend Mass (put it in an envelope clearly marked “Friends & Family” and drop it in the collection basket). Gift cards can also be dropped off in the parish office during regular office hours.

Can you help with the Friends & Family Dinner? Come to our volunteer meeting!
Monday, April 3 from 6:30 – 7:30 PM in the Staff Lounge
We need help making this event a huge success. Please come to the meeting to help us fill in any gaps and volunteer to help. Questions call Mike Aeling at 307.8237.

ST. PASCAL’S SCHOOL NEWS

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Announcing the 2017 VBS Theme
Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose

DATE: June 19-23
TIME: 9:00 AM – 12 Noon
PLACE: St. Pascal Baylon Church

Watch the bulletin for details and registration information soon! Interested in helping with VBS? Contact Kim Roering at 774.1585 or kim.roering@stpascals.org.

NOTE: A VBS planning meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, April 1 in the staff lounge at St. Pascal’s.

Seeing with New Eyes—A Reflection on John 9: 1-41 (with Fr. Mike Byron)
Wednesday, March 29 from 6:45-7:45 PM
Blessed Sacrament Church
2119 Stillwater Ave. E., St. Paul
The Gospel for the 4th Sunday of Lent in Year A tells of how Jesus healed a man born blind. Yet that man had more “vision” than the Pharisees who could see. What is the blindness we experience in our attitudes toward ourselves, toward others, and toward God? How might we see with new eyes? Join us at Blessed Sacrament Church as Fr. Mike reflects on this Gospel passage.

Office of Religious Education

Sacramental Information
Reconciliation
Saturday at 4:00 and by appointment

Parish Contact Information
Parish Office 651.774.1585
Fax 651.774.9152
Email church@stpascals.org

Parish Office Hours
Mon-Fri 8:00 - 4:30 PM
Holidays as announced

After Hours Emergency Number
651.280.9239

School Contact Information
School Office 651.776.0092
Fax 651.774.9152
Email laurie.jennrich@stpascals.org

School Office Hours
September - May
Mon - Fri 8:00 - 4:00 PM
June - August
Tue & Wed 9:00 - 2:00 PM
Summer hours also by appointment

Parish Councils
Parish Pastoral Council
Ann Karner, Chair
Meetings - 1st Tuesday at 6:30 PM

Parish Finance Council
John Knoll, Chair
Meetings - 4th Thursday at 6:30 PM

Parish Prayer Line
8:00 - 10:00 AM 651.735.0004
Mary Butler-Levine
4:00 - 6:00 pm 651.774.3248
Pat Kackman

Parish Communication
Bulletin Notices
Please email notices to the parish office by 3:00 PM Monday—hard copy notices must be in by 2:00 PM. Email to shea.munoz@stpascals.org.

Bulletin inserts for St. Pascal parish and school events only are limited to 3 inserts per weekend

Mass Announcements
Direct to the parish office by 3:00 PM on Wednesday.
Mass Times & Intentions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 28</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 29</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Fr. Jim Kaston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 30</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Mary Kachelman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 31</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 01</td>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Frank Brodniewicz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, April 02</td>
<td>8:45 AM</td>
<td>Michael Ekstrom</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
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</tbody>
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Heart Questions

*For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as Children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.*

Ephesians 5:8–9

**Adult:** What are you doing in your life right now to move toward light rather than darkness?

**Child:** How can you let the light of your faith in Jesus shine for others to see?

Stewardship of Treasure

**Financial Gifts – Week of March 19, 2017**

For fiscal year July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For the Week:</th>
<th>Actual Received</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Stewardship</td>
<td>$ 7,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage Campaign</td>
<td>$ 5,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$ 156</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year to Date:</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Variance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(July 1 – June 30)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Stewardship</td>
<td>$669,112</td>
<td>$646,000</td>
<td>$23,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage Campaign</td>
<td>$249,720</td>
<td>$209,000</td>
<td>$40,720</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please note: Automatic (electronic) contributions are made on the 1st and 15th of each month and will be recorded with the following Sunday’s collection. Each week our budget requires $17,000 in Sunday stewardship collections and $5,500 in Mortgage (capital campaign) contributions.

**Thank you for your generous support!**

Readings for the Week

March 26, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a, Ps 23:1-6, Eph 5:8-14, Jn 9:1-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Is 65:17-21, Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b, Jn 4:43-54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Ez 47:1-9, 12, Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9, Jn 5:1-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Is 49:8-15, Ps 145:8-9, 13c-14, 17-18, Jn 5:17-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Ex 32:7-14, Ps 106:19-23, Jn 5:31-47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Wis 2:1a, 12-22, Ps 34:17-21, 23, Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Jer 11:18-20, Ps 7:2-3, 9b-12, Jn 7:40-53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Next Sunday</td>
<td>Ez 37:12-14, Ps 130:1-8, Rom 8:8-11, Jn 11:1-45</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Week Ahead

Visit us at www.stpascals.org for more information on upcoming events.

**Sunday, March 26—4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)**

*Caring Hearts Parish & School Lenten Project through April 12*

After Masses: New Member Registration: BH
Friends & Family ticket sales: CM

**Monday, March 27**

9:30am Nia: OC
5:00pm Culver’s Night: Sun Ray
6:30pm Boy Scouts 294: CF, Gym

**Tuesday, March 28**

8:15am Bible Study: PC
6:30pm Legacy Society Seminar—Ethical Wills: BH
6:30pm Grace within women’s group: Room 107
7:00pm Bible Study: PC

**Wednesday, March 29**

9:30am School Mass—All are welcome!
6:00pm Parkway Little League Draft: BH
6:30pm Faith Formation: LB, OC, 101, 105
7:00pm Choir: CR

**Thursday, March 30**

9:30am Bible Study: PC
1:00pm Joint Parish FF&SJ meeting: FR
6:00pm Parkway Little League Draft: BH
6:30pm Finance Council: FR

**Friday, March 31**

8:00am Reflect & Renew Day: FR
4:30pm Fish Fry & Bake Sale: BH
7:00pm Stations of the Cross: CH

**Saturday, April 1**

After Masses: F&F ticket sales: CM
9:30am Passion Proclaimer Rehearsal: CH
10:00am VBS Planning meeting: SL
10:15am Vigil Proclaimer Rehearsal: CH

**Sunday, April 2—5TH SUNDAY OF LENT**

After Masses: F&F ticket sales: CM

**MEETING LOCATION KEY:**


**Easter Flowers**

Help enhance our worship space during the Easter Season and remember a family member, loved one or someone who is ill or homebound with a plant or donation (any amount). Please complete the form below and return it with payment to the parish office or place it in the collection basket at Mass. $10 donation suggested. Thank you for your gift!

I would like to purchase an Easter plant in (circle one)

Honor of / Memory of:

______________________________

Donated by:

______________________________

Please make checks payable to St. Pascal’s.
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Today’s Readings: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41.

The Gospel passage for today tells the story of a man being healed of his blindness. However, the exchanges between the man and Jesus and those among onlookers all reveal the many deeper meanings of this account. To be relieved of blindness in our lives is challenging for us. It is so much easier to continue in blindness than to allow ourselves to be healed. Even at the end of the Gospel passage, some of the Pharisees ask, “Surely we are not also blind, are we?” They may well be revealing our thoughts.

This is the day and the season to ask that question about our blindness, and to find a way to “see.” Find where you are blind, and seek a way to wash away the blindness. Take some time to find where Jesus is pointing out the path to healing for you. Go to the same prayerful space each day, as did the blind man, and pray and wait. Name your blindness, and in naming, perhaps find ways you can wash it clean. Find another person, as did the witnesses in the Gospel, to discuss this blind spot of yours and do not blame another for your loss of sight.

We are reminded that being blind leaves us in the dark, both literally and figuratively, but also that Jesus is our Light. Jesus tells the blind man to wash in the pool at that moment. It is Jesus who points out that his path is where our blindness might be washed away so that we may see. Often we are not completely healed in one moment, but the revealing light is gradually revealed to us. Lent provides an opportunity to focus more intently on healing our blindness, and seeing more of the Light. As we proceed through Lent, we should pray that our eyes are opened.

March 26, 2017
Healing Our Blindness

See into Our Hearts
Father Almighty,
you who have blessed our ancestors
and anointed them with the oil of
your Spirit;
who have given your grace and light to
those in need
and guided the hands of our leaders in faith.
See into our hearts today,
and find us ready to receive you,
as you guided Samuel to recognize the
Lord’s chosen.
May we open our eyes to see you, and our
hearts to accept you,
and may we find Christ in others as you
guide us.
Teach us to know your ways,
to follow your path,
and to trust in your guidance.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Today’s Readings: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41. The Gospel passage for today tells the story of a man being healed of his blindness. However, the exchanges between the man and Jesus and those among onlookers all reveal the many deeper meanings of this account. To be relieved of blindness in our lives is challenging for us. It is so much easier to continue in blindness than to allow ourselves to be healed. Even at the end of the Gospel passage, some of the Pharisees ask, “Surely we are not also blind, are we?” They may well be revealing our thoughts.

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This Week at Home

Monday, March 27
Remember When
In today’s Gospel passage, John reminds us that we often recognize the truth, the Christ, or God’s grace, only after the fact. Jesus leaves Galilee only to return, and yet many are still skeptical. Today, spend time in prayer not only looking forward, but remembering when God’s grace was given without notification. Learn to slow down and appreciate the presence of Christ in the things of beauty that you see daily. Today’s Readings: Isaiah 65:17–21; Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5–6, 11–12a, 13b; John 4:43–54.

Tuesday, March 28
Life-Giving Water
Both readings today speak of an abundance of water that is both fruitful and healing. Such is our baptismal water, giving us life again and again, and cleansing us. Throughout Lent, we are reminded that our Baptism continues to be our source of life, health, faith, and spiritual nourishment. In your Lenten prayer space, include a small bowl of baptismal water as a reminder of what your Lenten practices are renewing within you. Today’s Readings: Ezekiel 47:1–9, 12; Psalm 46:2–3, 4–5, 8–9; John 5:1–16.

Wednesday, March 29
Mercy to the Afflicted
Isaiah proclaims a day of salvation that is one of compassion, mercy, pity, and comfort. These are the signs of the Lord’s favor. As we proceed through Lent, we should consider the place that compassion and mercy have in our lives. The Lord comforts his people and so must we. Perhaps today you might be more intentional about recognizing the needs of another and responding appropriately. Today’s Readings: Isaiah 49:8–15; Psalm 145:8–9, 13cd–14, 17–18; John 5:17–30.

Thursday, March 30
The Faith of Moses
Today, in all three readings, Exodus, Psalm 106, and John, we hear about the faith and strong belief of Moses. His belief in God saved the people from destruction on more than one occasion. He pleads with the Lord to relent in punishing his stiff-necked people. If only our faith could be that firm, that secure. Today’s Readings: Exodus 32:7–14; Psalm 106:19–20, 21–22, 23; John 5:31–47.

Friday, March 31
A Recompense of Holiness
In today’s readings, we hear that the wicked not only are blinded by their evil ways but that they do not know how to recognize God’s holiness in their midst. In our fast-paced world, we often miss holiness as well. Consider how holiness has been apparent in, perhaps, a kind word from a store clerk, a gentle hand holding you back from oncoming traffic, or a child putting away the dishes without being asked. How have you let your holiness shine forth to others? Today’s Readings: Wisdom 2:1a, 12–22; Psalm 34:17–18, 19–20, 21 and 23; John 7:1–2, 10, 25–30.

Saturday, April 1
Opening Ourselves to Others
In today’s Gospel, some are not open to Christ because they have a preconceived idea of who the Messiah will be. Lent is a time for penitence and introspection. We need to consider how often we jump to conclusions about someone without first discovering who they are. The readings today remind us to hear people’s stories and consider their situations and experiences. Doing so will open us to their goodness. Today’s Readings: Jeremiah 11:18–20; Psalm 7:2–3, 9bc–10, 11–12; John 7:40–53.
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

One year ago this month, Pope Francis bestowed on me the honor and responsibility of leading this Archdiocese. You may recall that it was a time of considerable uncertainty and unrest. We were trying to make sense of unspeakable harms that occurred over many decades. The abuse crisis had led to resignations, other personnel changes and legal challenges. There was a call for justice and a need for healing, reform and action.

Since arriving in our Archdiocese, I have come to know this local Church – and many of you – and I consider that a blessing. I want to take a few moments to offer some updates, seek your advice, and express my gratitude.

First, I can assure you that through consultation and purposeful corrective actions, and with an unwavering commitment to improve, we are together building a healthier, more responsive and more accountable local Church. Your prayers have undoubtedly been a huge part of that.

As you may recall, just over a year ago, the Archdiocese entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Ramsey County Attorney’s Office relating to the protection of children. Since then, the Archdiocese has been periodically reporting on our progress in Ramsey County Court. Not only have we been found to have complied with the spirit and letter of the Agreement, but the Archdiocese has been commended for our cooperative work with the county attorney’s office – and others – to protect children.

Over the past few months, many of you have asked about our remaining legal challenge: bankruptcy. You want to know if the Archdiocese is doing everything it can to ensure that those who were harmed receive fair compensation. You have also asked how your parish and the entire local Church will survive this and continue with their missions.

I can assure you that our goal has been to provide fair compensation as soon as possible. We have liquidated possessions, sold buildings, collected other assets, and negotiated with insurance carriers. We have managed to gather more than $155 million, all with the hope of compensating claimants and finally bringing an end to the bankruptcy.
We know that those who have been harmed deserve justice sooner rather than later, and we realize that prolonged litigation works counter to our desire to maximize the amount available for victims because legal fees and costs, which are already substantial and grow the longer this goes on, reduce the proceeds available to victims. We also know how that the uncertainties of the ongoing litigation have made it difficult for many of our parishes and parishioners to stay focused on our mission. Please join me in praying that the matter might soon be brought to a resolution.

At the same time, I ask for your continued prayers for those who have suffered abuse. I can attest that many have suffered in silence for a long, long time. It may be someone sitting next to you at Mass, on the bus or a train, or at your family dining table. We want to create welcoming environments for those who have been harmed while embedding into our culture the changes necessary to create the safest possible environments for all.

If you know of a way that our Church could do more to help, please let me know. Reach out in whatever way is best for you. We want your advice. My contact information is at the bottom of this letter.

I thank you. We are, together, setting a new course. To be sure, we have much work ahead. But, through your efforts, this local Church is positioned to accomplish so many positive things and to continue the vital acts of service it performs every day. In taking stock of where we have been, where we are now and where we are headed, I am most grateful for our present opportunities. God willing – and with your help – we will continue moving toward a better future.

May God bless you and your families.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis