



## SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

August 15, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

I hope you are safe and well as we cope with this terrible pandemic. I want to give you an update on Saint John Fisher's *Campaign 21*, which you may or may not have heard about.

Last year, St. John Fisher Church joined in the Los Angeles Archdiocesan *Called to Renew* campaign. This is a five-year effort to address archdiocesan-wide critical infrastructure repairs that will especially help less fortunate parishes. We also decided to review the unfinished parts of our 2006 campus master plan which called for increased space for education, ministries, and storage, as well as construction of the *Msgr. Eugene A. Gilb Pastoral Center*. We determined that the best approach was to combine our needs with the needs of the Archdiocese into a single fundraising effort that we are calling *Campaign 21: Completing the Vision*.

The fundraising for *Campaign 21* started last Fall and was proceeding very well. As of this past March we had received sacrificial pledges from initial donors of over \$5 million toward our goal of \$8 million, and we deposited over \$1.5 million into the campaign account. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit that same month and the Church had to be closed, we also decided to suspend *Campaign 21* fundraising. About the same time the Archdiocese suspended their campaign as well.

Since then we have been monitoring events and reflecting on why *Campaign 21* remains important to our community as well as to the disadvantaged parishes in the Archdiocese. Although *Campaign 21* will improve our campus to meet the needs of future generations of parishioners, these past months have reminded us how much that campaign could benefit us today. Our parish administration, school, and over 80 active ministries were already taxing the capacity of our offices, reception areas, and meeting rooms. We envision a future where our spaces will need to provide more social distancing than we do at present.

During this pause, the campaign executive committee is conducting weekly video conferences with me to determine how and when to complete the final stages of the fundraising. Just this past week I received a letter from the Archdiocese. They indicated that they are reassessing plans to relaunch *Called to Renew*. Certainly, it will be no sooner than January 2021. One of the critical factors for restarting the campaign will be the sustained return to indoor Mass. We will probably follow their lead.

Rest assured we are being thoughtful and empathetic to the human and financial effects of this crisis. If you would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork  
Pastor