



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

the Catholic Community at the University of Connecticut

Dear Members of St. Thomas Community,

As many of you know, we have to make major repairs to the Chapel. These repairs will be beneficial as they will solve the leaking problem which has been with us for a number of years and is gradually damaging the building. The overall project is a big one, but we have taken on the most urgent part now, and work should be done within a month to replace the flat sections of the Chapel roof.

The Parish Finance Council will be planning for the remainder of the work needed on the Chapel and other projects and developing a Capital Pledge Campaign. Before we can go that far, however, we need to pay for the work being done this fall. The projected cost of these repairs is \$115,000.

We have already paid almost \$30,000 in engineering and consulting fees and in the process used up nearly all the savings set aside in the Building Fund. There is no surplus in our week-to-week income (in fact we are behind our income projections). Thus we will likely have to borrow up to \$65,000 and then have to pay this back plus interest. The Finance Council is planning for some fund-raising activities over the coming months, but the only sure way to raise the money we need to cover the cost of the roof repair and replace some contingency money in the Building Fund to cover other possible needs is a direct appeal to you now. If the response to this appeal is prompt, we may be able to avoid the need to borrow money (and hence save interest costs).

In short, then, we are asking members and friends of St. Thomas to raise \$75,000. If we are to avoid interest charges then these gifts must be up front rather than in the form of long-term pledges. Contributions in all sizes are welcome and needed. The Finance Council members are confident that if parishioners support this direct appeal and our other fund-raising events we can get past this hurdle and develop a plan for long-term care of our buildings and operational expenses of the parish. Please mark your gifts "Building Fund." Thanks in advance to two gifts recently made by parishioners and earmarked for Chapel repair. These total \$1650, so we are already off to a good start. Any amounts raised in excess of the \$75,000 will be placed in the Building Fund in anticipation of the costs of the rest of the repair work to be done.

We're sending this appeal out by mail (and taking on that expense) because it is important that everyone at St. Thomas know what we're facing; we also realize that family schedules sometimes keep parishioners from actually being here to hear the word directly on any given week(s).

Peace,

Rev. Paul M. Sullivan, S. J.

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a ministry of the Jesuit Fathers