

Dear Parish Family,

As I'm sure all of you heard by now, Fr. Winslow is doing well. The procedure was a success. His prognosis is excellent. We look forward to his return at the end of December. He is grateful for all of your prayers.

In the meantime, as you know, I have assumed the administrative responsibilities of the parish in his absence. In so doing, I have been charged with bringing the sanctuary project to its completion. First, let me say how beautiful everything looks. I am happy for the people of St. Thomas Aquinas. A parish with such faith deserves a sanctuary that manifests their faith. We are blessed.

As I attempt to get up to speed on the project, I note that there were some unexpected, and therefore unaccounted for expenses that I would like to address. I know that Fr. Winslow has done his best to avoid having to return to you for more assistance. Nevertheless, the final numbers are in and we are going to need one more push. We are in the red. This is not uncommon in construction, especially a booming economy in which construction prices are exceedingly high. Yet other anomalies occurred. In the construction phase, it was discovered that the drawings we have for the church were inaccurate, resulting in a number of complications related both to electrical and ductwork that had to be run through concrete. Additionally, we ran into a snag with the contractor who originally disassembled the sanctuary pieces. The long and the short of it is that the ambo is going to require more funds in order to have it delivered and prepared for installation. As you might imagine, with a project of this size and scope, these expenses add up. In my estimation I believe that we need approximately \$28,000 in order to land this project without any shortfall.

Having previously spoken with Fr. Winslow throughout this project, I know it was never the intention that funds would be diverted from general operating and/or offertory. I would like to make sure we keep it this way. To that end, I would like to propose a plan. Would you help me bring this project to financial completion before Fr. Winslow returns? In truth, I could simply administrate in such a way that that he would have to deal with this when he comes back. Instead, I would like to conspire with you to raise these funds and surprise him when he returns. This way, after his medical leave, he will return to the parish without having to assume the final burden of this project. To this end, I would like to launch a series of second collections. If everyone were to double their weekly offering for two consecutive weeks, we would reach this goal. We will keep everyone informed as to the amount being raised in the bulletin each week. I will be the first to toss into the basket. If we all do what we can, this will not be a burden on any one family nor on Fr Winslow when he returns. It will be our gift to him.

Thank you all! It is a joy for me to be with you all again. This has been and will be my parish, seminary or no. God's blessings on you all and on Fr. Winslow as he recovers.

In Domino, Fr Kauth, Administrator