



## THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL

January 18, 2019

Dear Cathedral Parishioners and Friends:

Happy New Year! I am pleased to write to you with a year-end 2018 update – financial and otherwise – on our great Cathedral parish.

Financially, 2018 was a strong year, with an operating surplus of nearly \$140,000 (statement on reverse). Some of the surplus is earmarked for projects that will be completed and paid this year, such as the repair of our narthex floor. But a good portion of the surplus can be moved to our Reserve Fund, which I will soon do, so that we are able to respond to unforeseen/unbudgeted needs as they arise. Our beautiful and aging campus regularly gives us “maintenance surprises” – so having a reserve is prudent.

In 2019, our expenses will also certainly increase, especially due to greater wage/salary expense for Family Life staff recently added and the Maintenance position we will soon fill. There are also many more maintenance and improvement items pending for our campus. Please continue to be generous, as you are able!

As I have mentioned in the past few months, the time is now arriving for us to transition our existing capital campaign from a “passive” model (monthly second collection, no pledges) to an “active” model (pledge commitments and an announced goal). Parishioners Michele and Jeremy DiPiazza have graciously agreed to serve as Campaign Chairs and are presently forming a committee. I hope to have complete information ready to present before Lent.

Part of what I will present, God-willing, is a comprehensive long-term vision for our capital funding needs. For many decades we have had almost continuous capital campaigns, other fundraisers, and even crippling debt service. When we evaluate future needs connected with the good stewardship of our beautiful church and campus, it seems that we could well face much “more of the same” – unless we take a new approach. I look forward to sharing about the *Cathedral Endowment Fund* and *Saint Paul’s Legacy Society* that I envision starting to meet our long-term needs, without the pressure of constant fundraising and debt.

Catie Yu Tiamco and Sophie Duvall began working near the end of 2018 as our new Family Life Coordinator and Family Life Assistant, respectively. They are already doing great work, re-starting our youth groups and spearheading other initiatives that will add value to our wonderful parish. I recently treated all our great staff to a dinner out, in thanks for the good work they do!

The much-needed refinishing of the hardwood floors in the church and the replacement of the pews will take place during the month of March. More information will be announced shortly about Masses in the CLC or Cathedral Chapel during that time.

Finally, let us not forget that Bishop Baker is preparing to complete his term as our shepherd: he will reach 75 years of age this June 4 and will have to submit his letter of resignation to the Holy See, as encouraged by canon law. We pray for him as he strives to finish his mandate well – and we pray that God will send a good and holy successor as the Fifth Bishop of Birmingham! During this year of St. Joseph, let us commend this intention to him, in particular, for he is the Patron and Protector of the Church.

Thank you again for your generous support of the Cathedral! With an assurance of grateful prayer for your intentions, I remain –

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Reverend Bryan W. Jerabek, J.C.L.  
Pastor & Rector

*We thank you for your ongoing financial support of the Cathedral of Saint Paul.*

