

I would like to ask all of us to sit a moment....and listen....with the ear....of our heart!

We continue to make progress toward our *Proclaiming Our Foundation in Faith + Stir Into Flame the Gift of God* campaign.... **having reached 55.37% of our \$7 million sacrificial goal. This is a true testament to the generosity of our parishioners.**

But.... In just six short weeks this second campaign draws to a close.

As you have heard Monsignor and I both stand up here and state....we need the help of all of our 1850 parish families if we are to achieve or exceed our goal....for although over the holidays several parish families gave one time donations or five year pledge commitments that helped us reach almost \$4 million dollars....this past week....things have slowed down a bit.

We as one Eucharistic Family practice our faith.... strive to grow in our spirituality and rejoice in our relationship with God.... We have been blessed in this regard both on a personal level as well as a community and so we need to remember....as found in the book of Deuteronomy *“Remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.”*

Some of our home visitors have reported back that they have heard parishioners state.... “I gave to the first campaign....let those who didn’t give *then*....give *now*.”

Thatis.... human nature....and we all feel that way sometimes.

But *sometimes....human nature* has to succumb to what our faith teaches

And as we strive to reach our \$7 million sacrificial goal in this second campaign we need to take guidance from the following passage in the St Paul’s Second letter to the Corinthians....“Just as you excel in everything-- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us-- see that you also excel in this grace of.... giving.” 2 Corinthians 8:7

St Paul was trying to teach the good people of Corinth....just as Monsignor...Frs. Navit and Quinn and I are trying to do here at Our Lady of Guadalupe...that although it may seem *difficult* given

the economic climate and everything else on our plates today....that beautiful new church nearing completion up the hill....*has* to be paid for....and *frankly*....it *can't* be.... by just 223 families.

That old mentality of.... “they and them”.... instead of.... “we and us”.... sometimes creeps in.... but if we are to *complete* the awesome task of building our church....maybe....just *maybe*....that old mentality....has to change.

You see....24% of our new campaign contributors are first time donors....some *new* to the parish....some *returning*....but all of *them*....are helping *us*....achieve our goal.

The remainder of the families making one time contributions or five year pledges....are folks who *all* contributed to the first campaign.... And although facing college tuitions....rising gas prices....escalating utility costs.... and the myriad of bills we all face....*they* believe so *strongly* in our parish vision that *they* sacrificed again.... so that *we* all.... could be proud of our historic project!

One of *them*....is a fifteen year old girl who won a \$500 prize in our fall football mania contest *Now*...having raised a teenage daughter....I've *got* to believe that this young woman might have wanted some new clothes....or an I-pad...or something else equally important to a fifteen year old....but *instead*....she donated her winnings to the campaign so that all of *us*.... could see our ten year journey come to fruition.

You have all heard me say this before.... from this spot.... Some families are able to contribute more than others....that happens in any fundraising effort....but as Monsignor Gentili has continued to state since this second....*planned* campaign....began....whether \$1....or \$1 million dollars....each every dollar is *equally* important....is *necessary* to our *success*.... and will be received with his thanks and prayers.

We at Our Lady of Guadalupe have always strived as a parish to *excel* in our faith.... and to *excel* in our love for each other and *all* of God's people. Through our financial participation in Proclaiming Our Foundation in Faith + Stir Into Flame the Gift of

God campaign every parish family now has the opportunity to excel.... in our.... “grace of giving.”

There is no room for they and them thinking....because in a few short months....our beautiful new church is going to be enjoyed by all of.... Us!

I thank you for listening....and may God bless us....everyone!