

The St. Olaf Parish Fund Appeal

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by Fr. Mark Pavlik
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As I continue my ministry as pastor of St. Olaf, I am continually invigorated by the energy manifested through all that goes on here on our little block. Every week visitors from throughout the world join us for prayer and worship. Day after day, countless people come through the doors of St. Olaf and are able to encounter the love of Christ through our worship, our outreach programs and our community life. Our parish has made Jesus' presence known to so many, thanks to the generous support of the parishioners and many friends of St. Olaf.

As I am sure you know, St. Olaf serves a unique ministry in the arch-diocese. With our Masses broadcast on television and radio, we reach thousands of people throughout central Minnesota. Now with our new website, we are reaching out to many more. The various aspects of our social outreach program enable us to meet the needs of countless men, women and children who come to our parish doors in need. Our pastoral care ministry brings the Gospel to those who are unable to come to the church in person. Our programming gathers people of all faiths and creeds into our church, who might not otherwise find their way here. These are just a few of the numerous ministries we are able to offer because of the dedication and commitment of the parishioners and other supporters of St. Olaf Catholic Church.

By now, all registered parishioners have received my letter regarding the 2010 Parish Fund Appeal. This year our goal is "20 in 10." We are appealing to those parishioners who have not pledged in the past. In 2009, 297 registered members contributed to St. Olaf but chose not to make a pledge. A pledge of commitment allows the parish to plan for our future needs and make appropriate financial decisions throughout the year. As part of our "20 in 10" goal, if you contribute to the parish but do not pledge, please become one of the 60 new pledging participants in this year's appeal.

In 2009, there were 402 registered parishioners who neither contributed nor pledged to the parish. If you are one of those members, please become one of the 80 parishioners who commit to support the parish with a pledge and contribution for the new year. We need your participation now more than ever.

And, of course, we are asking those who have pledged in the past to renew their financial commitment to St. Olaf and, if possible, increase their commitment over 2009 by "20 in 10." Many members of the parish came forward in 2009 to increase their pledges and make additional gifts to our fundraising efforts and for that I am very grateful.

By working together and using the financial resources given to us by the grace of God, we will continue to spread the Good News of the gospel and preserve and continue "serving as a living sign of Christ's presence in the heart of the city."