



## SAINT ALOYSIUS PARISH

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February 6, 2018

Dear Friends,

I want to bring you up to date on the feasibility study for a parish capital campaign that we have conducted among a small group of parishioners.

As a result of the excellent work of the Saint Aloysius Pastoral Planning Committee, a number of parish needs were identified, among them the need for additional space for learning, meeting, and social gatherings. In my one year at the parish, I added to that list some capital improvements to the church, parish offices, and Saint Aloysius school. In collaboration with the Diocese of Bridgeport, we asked the CCS Fundraising organization to conduct 75 interviews with parishioners to test the viability of a parish campaign in the immediate future.

As of today, most of the planned number of interviews have been completed in the campaign feasibility and study phase. I have weighed the results of those interviews with a lengthy and helpful discussion at the most recent Saint Aloysius Pastoral Council meeting, and I have decided to postpone campaign planning and extend the study process. The interviews conducted by the CCS fundraising group indicate that before proceeding with fundraising, we should spend additional time assessing demographic information, examining parish needs, and refining project goals.

In its January 6th meeting, the members of the Saint Aloysius Pastoral Council spent considerable time discussing the proposed campaign. The conversation was lively, insightful, and informed by the members' desire to imagine the best plan possible. The vast majority of the membership made the recommendation to wait before proceeding with launching a campaign in order to gather essential information.

One of the reasons we were considering a parish campaign at this time was to partner with a planned diocesan campaign and receive some benefit from that partnership. Last week I met with Bishop Caggiano to discuss my desire to postpone parish campaign activity. The bishop gave his complete support to the decision and expressed his confidence in the success of a future project. I share the bishop's confidence in our success going forward, and I am delighted that the feasibility process has served its purpose.

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I am confident that after a year of focused research, we will together create a viable plan and realize sensible and achievable goals to support and enhance our ministries. The research I envision will include a more thorough assessment of the tax burdens in – and economic condition of – the State of Connecticut and the impact on philanthropy. Our study will also include a detailed examination of growth trends in parish membership, religious education, and Saint Aloysius School; and a more thorough evaluation of the need for meeting, teaching, and social space. Finally, postponing a possible campaign provides an opportunity to engage more parishioners in sharing their vision of how we can best live out our mission as parish and Church.

I'm looking forward to the clarity that we will gain in the year ahead, and I am exhilarated by the prospect of bringing to fruition the plans that God has in store for us in the years thereafter. I am grateful for your prayerful support of the parish, and I am hopeful that I can count on your insights and ideas as we move forward in faith.

Yours in Christ,

Father Rob Kinnally  
Pastor