

Parish Projects and Construction: “Build for the Lord!”

BIBLICAL EXPOSITION OF STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE: PRIORITIZING THE LORD’S PORTION FOR OUR PARISH PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION – “*BUILD FOR THE LORD.*”

The whole of Scripture emphasizes the need to prioritize GIVING OR BUILDING FOR THE LORD. Let us consider the following passages and let the Spirit of God speak to us from the depths of our being.

Thus says the LORD of hosts: This people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD." Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, "Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? Now therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider how you have fared. You have sown much, and harvested little; you eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages earns wages to put them into a bag with holes" (Hag 1:2-6).

THE STATE OF LIMA REPORT 2020/2021 (Updated):

May God continue to keep us safe from the COVID 19 pandemic and help us get through these challenging times, through Christ our Lord. Amen. Thank you for all you have done so far, over the years, in time, talent and treasure, to bring our parish to its present level of development.

Since I assumed duties as Pastor, I have been having a series of meetings: with the Bishop’s Staff, the Parish Staff, and our parish Finance Committee, among others. These have helped to shape MY VISION FOR OUR PARISH:

Gradually, as things continue to return to normal, I want to share with you a portion of our immediate and future plans as well as solicit your support and commitment. I know some or many of us have lost their job or income and are struggling right now. May God continue to see you through, provide enough for your family, so that you may be able to support His Church later. God knows our individual situation and circumstances; He knows how poor or rich each

person or family is and how generous we are and will repay us. So, I am appealing to those who can and are willing to help:

Our parish is still a developing parish, lacking the necessary infrastructure for adequate parish ministry, especially, “*The Lima Center*” (comprising the Parish Hall and Kitchen, Parish Offices, Classrooms for faith formation, Parish Gift Shop, Storage facilities, Restrooms, Library/Media center, etc). The Parish Hall is our most vital parish need; without it, we can never relate as a community; we will always be individuals who attend Mass and go home. We have no place to meet for dinner dance, parish parties and events and celebrations.

The Food Pantry is a vital outreach ministry for helping the poor in our area and beyond; the need is great. And we have been doing a great deal in that area. I discussed with a representative of the Finance Committee a few days ago, and we decided to work toward making the food pantry largely government and grant sponsored since we take care of everybody (irrespective of religion, ethnicity, national origin, etc). Government and other agencies can easily give money to construct the Lima Food Pantry and for the operations; but will not give money for parish expense, building our parish Hall or hiring of staff. This calls for the application of the economic principle of **DIVISION OF LABOR**. To this end, when I first presented this vision about four months ago, we had planned to separate the Lima Food Pantry Project from the Lima Center Project. However, the vision has evolved. Since we really cannot afford the envisaged big Lima Center Project (with a big hall, parish offices, classrooms for faith formation, parish gift shop, library, storage, commercial kitchen, etc) at this time, it will be left for the future. Right now, we have decided to do a small Lima Center (with a small hall with 3 or 4 collapsible partitioning walls for faith formation), food pantry, warming kitchen and restrooms. So, the present project will be a partnership. While our Finance Committee and the Food Pantry coordinators continue to source for support from Government, local businesses, and other external donors for the food pantry section, we – the parishioners of St. Rose – will be responsible for the hall and kitchen sections.

Accordingly, I am hereby requesting that, for the sake of the future of our parish, we prioritize GIVING toward our internal needs at this time. Our parish needs are great:

1. **NEED FOR IMPROVED PARISH COLLECTION:** our parish is poorly staffed; since I arrived, I have not slept more than 3-4 hours per night. There is a lot to do. In my last two parishes of smaller sizes to St. Rose, we had at least 10 employees. Here we have only 6 which our present offertory level, prior to COVID, could barely sustain. We need a business manager, a music director (for the Spanish Masses), a youth minister, etc.

2. THE CATHOLIC APPEAL 2021: Amount Assigned = over \$120,000, Remember, whatever we do not collect of the goal will be added to our parish debt. It is based on the actual budget for running the diocese. We are really hurting since we did not make the one of last year 2020.
3. THE BIG LIMA CENTER PROJECT: The project is estimated at about \$5 – 8 million. I was advised that by the Finance Office of the Diocese that we need to raise a sizable percentage before we can qualify to get the needed loan. We are putting this project on hold for now. As I explained above, we will focus on the one formally in the pipeline, the SMALL LIMA CENTER PROJECT. To this end, we plan to work with the Catholic Foundations to raise the initial capital for the project.
4. CHURCH EXPANSION PROJECT: This is completely suspended until future notice.
5. TEMPORARY PARISH OFFICE RENOVATIONS: This is already in progress. When I resumed in August 2020, the floor carpet was in a terrible shape and there was no properly designed reception area. We have done that and painted the internal areas; and it really looks great now. When the Bishop visited, he was very impressed with the improvement. In his words, *“It looks like an office now. Thank you!”* I am grateful to all those who worked with me and gave their time and talent toward the renovations.
6. **MORE TO BE DONE IN THE OFFICE RENOVATIONS (IMMEDIATE PARISH NEEDS):** We now need to replace the damaged and leaky roof and to fix the outside of the office: design a drive through, parking space, disability accessibility and parking, and landscaping so that the entire place will truly look like a place in America, not like we see in third world countries. So far, we have received one quotation for the roof replacement. It is about \$13,000. We are arranging for two more quotations before we decide. SO, WE NEED HELP IN MONEY AND IN KIND. We need you!!!

May God inspire and anoint each of us with a responsible and committed stewardship of time, talent and treasure for the advancement of our parish for the work of salvation, through Christ our Lord. Amen.