

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The first of August was the fourteenth anniversary of my arrival as administrator, and then pastor at Our Lady of the Rosary. During these years we have shared many blessings. The school has bounced back from nearly closing to achieve financial stability, enrollment growth and a nationwide reputation. The parish have rallied to build a beautiful new church, known for its innovative approach to traditional architecture, ecclesiastical art and design. Most of all our worship has moved in a new direction, combining traditional devotions and customs with beautiful music and reverence. Combined with this, our people have continued a remarkable legacy of service to the poor and needy with a strong and committed pro life witness, food pantry and prison ministry.

The spiritual growth has been enabled by a clear vision, deep commitment and generous giving. In addition to building the new church the parish obtained 110 James Drive to serve as Mother Teresa House and 6 James Drive as an extra meeting place for the parish and residence for parish and school staff. Last year the drive and vision of our people enabled the purchase of the five acre plot of land to the North of our campus. All of this growth has been empowered by your vision, faith and hope for the future. God is in charge, and as we co-operate with him, Our Lady of the Rosary is proof that great things can be accomplished.

This year we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of our school. In a separate email this week I explained the progress we are making on the completion of the school master plan that was presented earlier this year. Part of that plan is to provide an interim solution to the need for new school facilities. To erect modular classrooms on the lower field to house our growing Upper School we will need to find about \$1.5m. This temporary solution accommodates our existing school and allows for expansion over the next few years.

Before we embark on this short term venture, we need to rally together to pay off the loan we took on to purchase the new plot of land. Therefore, next week we will have a special gift Sunday to raise the \$158,238. that is outstanding. We would like to do this with new significant cash gifts. Please think and pray about how much you can give. These gifts are exempt from the Diocesan tax so 100% of your gift will be used to clear the debt.

Please remember that your gifts are part of your worship. We give generously because God has blessed us generously. Your gift is therefore part of your thanksgiving to the Lord. I believe we will be able to clear this loan and move forward for the new classrooms to be ready to go for the opening of the 25-26 school year. Any surplus funds from the special gift Sunday will be held in the building fund.

Your Pastor,  
Fr. Longenecker