

Dear Parishioners

On July 1st, 2017, I completed my first year as your pastor. I want to thank you for the welcome that you gave me and the support that you have offered especially the last few months while I have been sick. I have tried during the past year to maintain the programs that I inherited to the best of my ability. However, some changes were necessary. The sidewalks around the church were cracked and hazardous. In fact, I fell myself on my first weekend. We improved the lighting in the church. The lighting in the church was very dark.

Permit me some observations. First, we need to reach out the millennials and X-generation people, who are not present. If you look around on Sunday, the majority of members are long term parishioners, some of whom have been here since the church was founded. I appreciate their involvement and support of the church. We need to encourage all people to participate in worship and the mission of the church.

Second, we need to continue our effort to reach out to the youth of the parish. Since he came in February, Angus McDowell, our youth minister, has worked hard to build up a renewed youth ministry program. Work is also continuing on a new Youth Center in the lower level of the church complex. We have the building permit necessary. As a parish, we make a mistake if we overlook the youth of our community.

Third, we need to reorganize our Social Justice program. What I am proposing is the Social Justice Committee becomes an umbrella organization which oversees our social justice programs including a new St. Vincent de Paul Society. The group would propose policy which I would review.

Fourth, we need to expand our outreach to the poor of the world. Currently, you generously support to our sister parish in Malawi. Given the encouragement of Pope Francis, I would propose that we also aid the people of Haiti, which is one of the poorest, if not the poorest country in the world.

Fifth, I would like to begin a program which would affirm and support marriage and family life within our community. Because I was sick, I could not hold what I call "A Celebration of Marriage" where we honor couples with significant anniversaries. Marriage and family life are the foundation of our life. When families are in trouble for one reason or another, it impacts all of us.

Sixth, I would like to restart the nursery on Sunday morning. The parish will pay a person to run the nursery on Sunday morning. Archdiocesan regulations require that we have an adult to oversee the nursery, and we need to follow the Safe Environment Protocol.

Seventh, we need to have a strong adult formation program. To better Christ and his role in our life, we need to take time to deepen our understanding of our faith.

In April next year, the parish will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding. Before that date, I would like to repaint the church. You never paint anything gray in the Northwest. I would like to upgrade the lighting system which is fifty years old. The musicians have also asked that we replace the current sound system which is also fifty years old.

I appreciate your generous support of the parish and the prayers that you have offered for me. I still face another back surgery in the months ahead. After I see my surgeon, I will let you know the date.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Kenneth Haydock