



St. Joseph Catholic Church
1145 South Aspen Road—Pueblo, Colorado 81006
Office-719-544-1886—Fax: 719544-5137

Advancing Missionary Discipleship

Dear friends in Christ,

January 8, 2024

For several decades the Diocese of Pueblo had raised the funds necessary to carry out its work and missions through an annual fundraising appeal. Our parish of St. Joseph only exists as an entity of the Diocese of Pueblo. The diocesan offices provide many necessary functions that parishes cannot do themselves, such as the education of priests. This annual appeal had gone by different names over the years, most recently the DMF – or Diocesan Ministry Fund. A monetary assessment (goal) was given to each parish based on income. Every February each parish with the help of the Diocese would solicit pledges towards this assessment. St. Joseph parish was typically assessed around \$90,000. Since 2021 Bishop Stephen Berg, after consultation with the diocesan Finance Advisory Council, reconfigured the manner in which the diocese acquired its necessary funds. It has forgone the annual campaign and is simply assessing the parishes their monetary responsibility. The expectation is that the people would simply increase the money they had been giving to the parish to cover their previous DMF contributions. This has not occurred on any meaningful basis here at St. Joseph's.

We are currently being assessed \$7522 a month or \$90,264 for the year (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024). This is very comparable to our previous DMF assessments. Since we have not generated the necessary income to cover this expense, we will be initiating our own pledge drive and appeal. St. Joseph consistently raised between \$80,000 and \$90,000 annually. We can do it again. We must do it again for the financial stability of our parish. We cannot cover this expense from our other income. I ask that you seriously consider giving to St. Joseph to help cover this expense. A pledge card is included on the back of this letter for your convenience. You may place your pledge and any monetary gift in the collection plate clearly marked for the AMD or send/bring it to the office. If you choose to make monthly payments please fill out a pledge card and then use the blue AMD envelopes included in your monthly packet. Remember, all gifts help no matter the size. Thank you again for your generosity and may God bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Steven J. Murray
Fr. Steven J. Murray