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Dear Parishioners of Good Shepherd:

If you are like me, sometimes financial reports can be a little overwhelming when trying to understand the financial picture they are designed to communicate. Similar to any business or corporation in the United States, the Diocese of Brooklyn has standard ways of reporting the financial condition of its parishes. The financial report, is designed to provide information to enable the study of a parish's financial position as it pertains to the parish, the Diocese of Brooklyn as a whole and to all those who are invested in the mission of the Church.

Just as with our own financial lives, it is good to "take a picture" of our financial standing to help us understand the sources and uses of the funds and to identify both the positive and negative aspects and to plan for the future.

Over the past few days I have been in communication with the Office of Fiscal Management and the Office of Human Resources concerning our Parish. As I have expressed to you in the past, our parish has been operating with a deficit budget over the last few years. This has an impact on our mission. The additional impact of the coronavirus on the parish is making it difficult to "accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative," as Bing Crosby used to sing.

We have experienced a serious decline over the past few weeks with no collections being taken up at Masses. The monies taken in thus far from those who have placed their envelopes in the mailbox or in the mail and those who have given through our electronic giving is far less than we normally take in, it is not enough even to cover our bi-weekly payroll. Prior to the mandate to close we were able through your generosity to pay the current medical bill and the invoice for the recent oil delivery. We still owe monies for our property insurance and diocesan assessment. Invoices for the Good Shepherd Fund and St. John Vianney Fund, which supports the clergy (both active and retired), have been postponed, but will also need to be paid.

Over the last few days, the question I needed to address was how can we increase revenue and decrease expenses in order for us to be able to function as a Parish and to have sufficient cash flow to pay our bills so we can continue to operate. A difficult decision has been implemented in having our seven employees placed on a temporary layoff until April 30, 2020. Those who are eligible will continue to receive benefits from the diocesan medical plan. However they are asked to apply for unemployment benefits. This decision will be evaluated over the next few weeks as the decision to reopen the church and rectory are contingent upon the decisions made by the Bishop and for the health of each and every one of us; it is my hope that our faithful employees will be able to return to work sooner than later.

May we continue to support Good Shepherd Parish, through our prayers, our relationships with the Lord and with one another, in what we say and do in our lives, and sharing the many gifts we have been given. May our lives be strengthened and renewed as we support the mission of Jesus Christ in our community. Thanks for all you have done and are now doing and will continue to do in the future - may God bless the parish we love.

Rev. Fr. Thomas V. Doyle
Pastor