

## Christ the King

Thank you for your support of St. Anthony Parish. Some of you have been members here all your lives; others have joined this year; some of you were born in the United States, Mexico, Central and South America, Asia, Africa, and beyond. Yet every one of you believes in God, comes to church, and supports this parish with your prayer, your time, your talent, and your treasure. We cannot operate St. Anthony's without your support, and I thank you for your generosity.

Our diocese is conducting a capital campaign to help pay for a new Catholic High School, to improve grade schools like Holy Cross, and to provide support for immigrants, the divorced, and the poor. Normally the diocese conducts an annual appeal, but this year all the parishes are beginning a three-year campaign called Forward in Faith. With this effort, all the Catholics of Kansas City-St. Joseph are asked to make a long-term pledge. People can usually be a little more generous if they plan their gift over a longer period of time. You may make some purchases that take years to pay off, or take out loans because they help you afford something expensive that you need now. In making a three-year pledge to the diocese, you spread out the payments on your gift so that you can be even more generous.

I have been wanting to start an annual campaign for St. Anthony Parish for a similar reason. In an annual parish campaign, people are asked to pledge what they think they can give over the next year. That helps us budget our expenses, and it challenges you to examine the size of your gift.

We have a large number of people who contribute by cash. I am grateful for every gift, but I urge you to use envelopes. When you contribute cash, you may be limiting your gift to what you have available at that moment. When you prepare an envelope before you come to church, you can be more deliberate about your gift. With envelopes we can tell you at the end of the year how much you've given; this can benefit you spiritually and also when you file taxes.

You are receiving two pledge cards in the mail this week - one for the diocesan campaign, and one for the parish. Please pray over each one so that you can be responsible and generous. Bring your cards next weekend. If you need one, we'll have extras here. If you have not registered as a member of St. Anthony's, please do. Some Catholics go to several churches throughout the year, but parishes cannot survive that way. Going to several churches may be convenient for you, but it hurts us if we do not have a stable membership. Please register with your parish and be faithful to it. Go to your parish church each Sunday, and support it with your time, talent and treasure.

Today's responsorial psalm is the same one we will sing next Sunday: "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." When you come to this house of the Lord, I hope you will rejoice that God is here, and that you have helped serve the Lord because of your gift.