

August 1, 2024.
St. Cletus School Roof Project

Dear Parishioners,

After experiencing several interior water leaks, especially on the west side of the school building, in February we began planning to repair the school roof. We involved the Archdiocese of Chicago's Planning and Construction Office and worked with several proposals from roofing contractors to determine the best way to address the problem. We have also involved our Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils and a recently formed School Roof Committee composed of school parents and other community members.

After a thorough evaluation and inspection process, it was determined that the school roof must be replaced. We currently have the original roof that, throughout the years, had patchwork that helped us overcome the emergencies. For example, the area over Junior High was repaired about 20 years ago. Due to this project's magnitude, all parties agreed to replace the roof in four phases. The first phase began this week. We are replacing the roof on the southern part of the school's west wing, which has the most severe damage. We expect this job to be completed in two weeks.

Having a School Endowment Fund is an excellent blessing. Discussions for the creation of this fund began in 1993 with, at the time, Fr. Ray Klees, pastor, Nancy O'Connor, principal, and JoAnn Kunkel, president of the school board, and others. Financial issues were challenging Catholic education. Therefore, they decided to secure new sources of funds to ensure the continuing existence and future growth of St. Cletus School. A St. Cletus School Trust Fund was established on 12/31/1993 with a board of Trustees. Other sources of funds were memorial and general contributions and donations. That very same year, the parish began a four-year capital campaign to address the issues of an aging plant, the Tower to Tomorrow Campaign, with a total goal of \$1,800,000, of which \$200,000 was to fund the Trust. By September of 1998, the Trust principal grew to \$275,797.18. At the request of the Pastor, a majority of the Trustees voted to terminate the Trust and transfer the balance to the Archdiocese of Chicago to establish a grade school endowment for St. Cletus.

There are rules governing this fund. One is that the fund's income may be used to support the school. Another rule determines that principal may be withdrawn under extraordinary circumstances, such as our school roof. At the end of fiscal year 2002 \$10,000 were withdrawn for the school's operating budget. Another \$10,000 were withdrawn at the end of FY 2003. For the fiscal years ending in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008, income of

\$15,000 was withdrawn from the Fund each year for the school's operating budget. At the end of FY 2009, \$30,000 was withdrawn for the school's operating budget.

As requested by the Archdiocese of Chicago, a charter was created to govern the fund. This charter contains provisions that limit withdrawals. In September 2009, the Pastor at the time, Fr. Robert Clark, requested a withdrawal of \$110,000 from the fund before the signing of the charter. Today, thanks to your generous donations and the work of the Archdiocese of Chicago, we have \$574,841.51 in the School Endowment Fund.

Undertaking the School Roof Project is a significant financial commitment. We are fortunate to have your generous support, which has allowed us to allocate \$80,000.00 from our surplus for fiscal year 2024 to this project. We plan to use \$136,500.00 from the School Endowment Fund to cover the remaining cost of the school roof project.

I will continue to keep you informed about how subsequent phases will take place.

Offering a Catholic education and faith formation to our children is part of our parish mission.

Please, know that I am encouraged by your continued generosity and support in the parish mission of offering a Catholic Education and faith formation to our children.

May the good the Lord continue to bless you.

Fr. Elmer Romero
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