

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

### *“Letters...Letters...Letters...”*

In the past few weeks, the parish staff has been very busy in preparing and mailing a number of letters to our parishioners.

The first letter to go out was the year end tax statement. If you have not received your 2004 St. Thomas More Contributions tax statement letter, please give Karen, our parish secretary/receptionist, a call at 760-758-4100, ext.100. If you have any questions in regard to your 2004 contributions, please contact Natalie, our bookkeeper at 760-758-4100, ext. 104. (She is in the office Monday through Wednesday.)

The second letter that has been mailed is to all parishioners who have not yet responded to the Capital Campaign, "Our Journey Into The Future...Together." This letter from your Parish Lay Leadership is asking the support of all our parish households in helping to make our Church/Sanctuary and other buildings/projects a reality. We will build a Church, sooner or later. As we continue to come together as a Parish around this Campaign, and all of us become a part of this project, it will happen sooner than later!

If you received a letter, please reflect upon it prayerfully and make your pledge. We need you and you need to be a part of this special endeavor. The build-out of our Parish Campus is essential to our responsibilities of continuing the mission and ministry of Jesus.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Capital Campaign, please give Chris Smith, our Director of Stewardship/Development, a call at 760-758-4100, ext. 120. She will be happy to speak with you.

The third mailing is the Lenten Brochure. Yes, the Lenten Brochure! Lent begins this Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to begin the Season of Lent with Mass and the reception of Ashes this Wednesday, and also plan to enter into some of the special events occurring during this penitential season.

Finally, letters and envelopes are being forwarded to your homes for the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA). This Diocesan Collection is an annual collection that benefits Catholic Charities, Priestly Formation, and ongoing Religious Education efforts in our Diocese. This year our Parish Assessment is \$23,000. The Diocesan goal is \$2.5 million. Your support and generosity is once again needed.

All money raised, over our assessment, is returned to the Parish. The money that is over and above our assessment will fund a Parish Reserve Account, which is essential now as our "new" building, the Parish Center, begins to age and more and more maintenance issues arise.

If you are a tithing family, be mindful that your tithe "covers" your gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal. For all others, your envelope can be returned any time during the months of February and March. We hope to complete this collection by Easter Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

In all of this, and more, know that I am extremely grateful and appreciative of the stewardship you exhibit on behalf of the Church of St. Thomas More. We are a very special Parish; your efforts make that the reality!