

Saint Ann Maronite Church

27 May 2014

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

At the end of April, we sent a letter to each of you discussing how only 45 of our parishioners (just 20% of us) supply 80% of the income in weekly envelope contributions. Most of our parishioners who utilize church services from Baptisms, to First Communion to Weddings to Funerals, in addition to many other requests of our pastor, provide zero or very little in weekly contributions, especially many of us who are well able to do so.

Our intent is not to allocate blame, but instead to keep our beautiful Saint Ann Maronite Church open and not closed, due to ever-increasing heating, cooling, lighting, water, sewer, electric and maintenance costs. Many of us take it for granted that our church will always be here, or assume that because our parents gave so much, we need not donate, or that somehow magically the parish will be able to pay her bills. Not unlike our personal homes, our spiritual home has weekly bills to pay...or be closed.

In our first letter, we promised to follow-up with you in an effort to educate, because we believe in the good hearts of our fellow parishioners, and that our financial needs are overlooked, albeit with the best of intentions. So here is some food for thought about the money we spend without thinking, or even throw away on things far less important than Saint Ann. Did you know that the average American spends \$20 per week on coffee (that's \$1,092 per year.) \$20 per week in the collection basket would cure all of our fiscal challenges and even allow us to save. In fact, we could get by on only \$10 per week from each of our 200 registered parishioners! The average worker spends \$37 per week on lunch (almost \$2,000 per year)...\$600 per year on cell phones...\$1,500 on pets...\$850 on soda....and you would be stunned at the average spending on beer and alcohol! All of these categories of disposable income amount to significantly more than the \$10 per week which should be placed in our church envelopes.

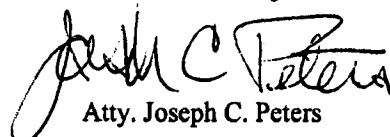
This is an uncomfortable topic for you to hear and us to communicate, but we owe it to our faith, our heritage and our children to keep our doors open. Please consider what we have written as to how we spend our money in other ways, and how we may be as fair as our circumstances allow in being generous to Saint Ann. Some cannot afford \$10-\$20 per week, but many can afford much more. That is for you and your heart to decide.


We will be back to you soon with some concrete suggestions, and always welcome your thoughts.

Thank you, and may God Bless you.

Your Parish Stewardship Council


Michael J. Mackarey


Atty. Joseph C. Peters


G. David Wagner, Chair

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