

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Can you believe it's already been a year since I was made pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary? I can hardly believe it. And what a year it's been. I keep telling anyone who asks, Paradise Township lives up to its name. I am truly blessed to be your Pastor, and I am humbled by your faithfulness, generosity, and humility. We are a pocket of goodness that I hope continues to inflame the world with Divine Love. Here are some of the highlights that have happened this past year with all your help, and a look at a change that will happen in the future.

Firstly, we were able to put a new roof on the Religious Education building, you know, so Sister Rosanne doesn't have water dripping on her kids during their classes. Or on me, when I'm working on my homilies in the office.

Secondly, we received a \$200,000 estate from one of our deceased benefactors. For those who are unaware, folks can set aside portions of their estate to pass to institutions of their choice, and we were most generously given such a portion. This estate was "un-restricted" which means that, with the advice of my Finance Council and Buildings and Grounds Committee, I may direct it to the preservation of IHM Parish, specifically the HVAC (our heating and cooling) and other projects on our campus that need our attention.

Looking ahead, I want to make you all aware that I am proud of our reverence. At the beginning of Mass, we all fall silent before the most important moment of our week, that of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. I am so grateful that we value this silence. It prepares our souls to enter more fully and deeply into worship of God the Father. As your Pastor, it is my responsibility to foster that holiness. To grow that reverence even more, there will be a slight change to the beginning of Mass. After we pray the Memorare, we will begin immediately with the hymn, omitting the greeting at the beginning of Mass.

As I mentioned in my homily last weekend, the Church sets the terms for worship and envisions that nothing should disturb the silence we've entered into before our worship of God. We will implement this change at all masses the weekend of Saturday, June 20th and Sunday, June 21st. In addition to increasing our Holiness in preparation for Mass, we will also be in greater conformity with Holy Mother Church.

Please know how proud I am of all of you, how welcoming you are, and how grateful I am to be your Pastor. Please know of my continued prayers for you and please keep me in yours!

Humbly,

Fr. Samuel Miller