



## DEAR PARISHIONERS,

**L**ast week in our bulletin, I addressed some of the questions about how to reach a priest in the new Pastorate set up. This week, I want to tackle another question that many have raised in hopes that you can point people to this article if this question comes up among your circle of friends.

### How are the four parishes currently financed?

Each of the parishes that make up our Pastorate are currently operating their own budgets. This was the budget created by the former administration prior to July 1, 2023. We do not have any joint account or a joint finance council at this juncture.

Each parish spends their own money for the needs of the parish. Every parish finance council meets independently with me to review the numbers. If there are areas where the four parishes have a shared cost, then each parish is billed to pay their own share of the total cost. Every parish is responsible for making sure that they have enough funds as in the past to take care of their budgetary needs. We are however encouraging parishes to collaborate in areas of mutual cost benefits. Our schools are already looking for areas where they can maximize their purchasing power.

### What will happen to my restricted donation, if I don't want my money to go elsewhere?

If someone were to give a restricted donation, for example, to a school endowment, for special building projects, debt retirement payments, or church maintenance, etc., that money can only be used for that purpose at the campus for where it is intended. This will still be the case even when we are merged and have a single Finance Council for the Pastorate. I can categorically tell that no parish in our Pastorate at this time has that kind of excess cash that you have worry about your money going to another parish. Please, continue to make those donations as you can since they go a long way to assist the needs of our parish.



### Into the Deep has caused me to stop giving or to reduce the amount I give compared to past years.

I fully understand that some of us may still be upset with the changes that came with Into the Deep. However, Into the Deep is our current reality. The needs of our individual parishes have not changed. We only hurt our parish and run the risk of putting our campus in a precarious situation if we stop helping to fund it. The maintenance of the buildings, the staff, the school, and teachers, if applicable, still rely on your kindness to continue to do their job or for buildings to be maintained. These are the people who will be ultimately affected by such decisions. Our parishes need your unwavering support to stay stable. We do not take your generosity for granted.

Finally, I would ask everyone to pray about this and ask why we do what we do. The diocese is not planning to take our money. That was never the intention of Into the Deep. What is being revealed by this process is that most of our parishes have serious financial issues that requires all hands-on deck.

Let us come together and continue to support our parishes. I may be writing to individual parishes to address particular needs or matters of great importance as the need arise.

As always, when in doubt, ask Fr. Paul.

Have a Blessed Week!  
Fr. Paul

