



## SACRED HEART CHURCH

101 COTTONWOOD STREET EMPORIA KANSAS 66801

May 27, 2014

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart Church:

When I first drove up to the parish here in April, I was so impressed with the beauty of the parish grounds and buildings. When I found out that you just completed a Capital Fund Drive to improve accessibility to the Church for the handicapped, and make other improvements, such as a dedicated Adoration Chapel, I was very pleased. I want to **thank all parishioners** who have responded so positively to the **Sacred Heart - Sacred Space Capital Campaign**.

In 2012, the parish celebrated and gave thanks for the 100 years of worship in our beautiful church. That building has stood as a visible testament of our Catholic faith in Jesus Christ and a sign of God's Kingdom coming into the world.

The Archbishop told me that Sacred Heart Parish was a parish of deep faith, hope, and charity. I believe it. This last Memorial Day, we remembered not only those who served their country through the military but also all our ancestors who have served the Church and Lord by their faith commitment. Sacred Heart also has a strong commitment to care for these gifts and to improve upon them when possible as evidenced by a successful Capital Campaign for parish improvements.

I pledge to you that I will do my utmost to carry out the objectives of this Capital Campaign. **1) Adding a handicap accessible, north-side entrance that will also contain a dedicated Adoration Chapel. 2) Building a Rectory at the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Exchange. 3) Restoring and protecting the stained glass windows. 4) Replacing the heating and air conditioning units for the church, and lastly, 5) Updating the parish offices and adding parking south of the church.**

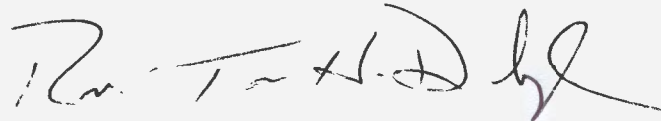
Our goal of raising pledges for \$1.5 million and at the same time maintaining our annual stewardship giving that supports the day-to-day ministry of the parish was successful and I thank you.

We have been given the green light by the Archdiocese to ask for bids on the construction costs of a north handicapped entrance to the Church (and new Adoration Chapel) and for the bids for building a new rectory. We are hopeful these two projects can be addressed together. We are very close to actually "getting a shovel into the ground" to begin this long awaited project.

Again I thank those parishioners who have either made a pledge or a one-time gift. We need to continue raising the funds to complete these projects, so I ask that parishioners be faithful to their pledge commitment. **We are counting on your help.** But realizing that sometimes financial conditions change, if you are not able to finish your pledge commitment as agreed upon, please call us. We will understand, but we need to be aware of your changing financial conditions.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus continue to pour out his love upon you and protect you.

In Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Thomas H. Dolezal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rev. Thomas H Dolezal

**Please note our new Website Address: [www.shemporia.org](http://www.shemporia.org)**