



I would like to thank all of our parishioners for their understanding and incredible support of those suffering in Haiti. As you know, last weekend the Jamaica choir traveled to St. John's to entertain our parishioners and promote the Jamaica Outreach Program. As a result of the devastating earthquake, the decision was made to postpone the Jamaica collection until the weekend of February 6th & 7th. Instead, we took a second collection for our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Your outpouring of support was evident as the second collection for Haiti totaled \$.... after watching continual footage of the devastation in Haiti, it is truly inconceivable for me to understand what these people must be experiencing. We are confident that the funds you so generously gifted will assist those that need it the most.

We are hopeful that most of you received a call or were left a message prior to last weekend's Masses indicating that we were going to have a second collection for Haiti. On very short notice, Fr. John asked that we setup a phone tree and contact every parish family to let you know of our plans. This involved enlisting the services of many volunteers and distributing phone lists to contact the nearly 3,000 families for which we have phone numbers. I would like to recognize those that assisted with this massive undertaking and thank them for giving of their time in order to get the job done. Many of you have commented that you appreciated receiving the personal phone call and pertinent information. This leads me to my next point which involves the completion of the family information which I (ironically) included in my column last week. If we had had the current email addresses for all of our parishioners, we could have sent an email "blast" and immediately notified our congregation in a matter of minutes. This is why I encourage you once again to complete the attached (very short) information card and either drop it in the collection basket or return it to the office. This information will help us update our records, communicate time sensitive information with you and assist us with the distribution of our upcoming parish survey. Remember, your email information will be held confidentially in our parish database and will not be distributed to anyone else nor will you receive any spam, barring that you don't consider an email from your parish as spam.

Did you attend Mass this past weekend? If so you were exposed to a rare treat as the choir from St. Pius X in Kingston, Jamaica entertained at several of the Masses. This was a prelude to the concert which took place on Monday evening in the PLC. This was a great example for those of you that contribute to our sister parish to see first hand the great works your donations are being used to support.

Annual Contribution Statements were mailed out this past week to all parishioners that contributed at least \$1.00 during the 2009 calendar year. The statements were mailed out first class in order to eliminate any problems with the bulk rate mailing process. As you know, we have made great strides in the past several years to ensure that your statement is accurate. For those that are already connected through our "Ministry Connection" portal, you may view your contributions at any time to ensure accuracy. If there is an error on your statement, please contact me as soon as possible so that I may research and rectify the situation. The following are examples of contributions that will not appear on your annual statement from St. John the Evangelist. 1) If you have been contributing to the Catholic Faith Appeal in the 2009 calendar year and have exceeded the IRS \$250.00 threshold, you will receive an acknowledgement directly from the Diocese of Venice. If you did not meet the \$250.00 threshold for CFA contributions in 2009, you will need to use cancelled checks for tax purposes. 2) If you made a contribution directly to the Jamaica Outreach Program (JOP), your gift will be recognized by JOP. 3) If you made a contribution directly to the St. Vincent De Paul Society, your gift will be recognized by the St. Vincent De Paul Society. 4) If you deposited loose cash in the offertory and did not use an envelope, we have no record of the gift. 5) If you are not a registered parishioner, you will not receive a statement. Thank you very much to all of our parishioners for your generous support in 2009. We would not be able to efficiently operate without you.

Are you the president or lead representative of one of our countless parish ministries? Are you not sure if your organization is a recognized parish ministry? We are going to hold a meeting on Saturday, February 13th at 1:00 pm in the PLC ballroom which will be open to the lead representative from each of our parish ministries. If your ministry wishes to be recognized as a ministry of St. John the Evangelist, we expect representation at this meeting. We will publish some form of this announcement until February 7th to ensure that every ministry has the opportunity to appoint a representative to attend.

The Polish Festival this past Sunday was a great success. Nearly 300 guests enjoyed authentic Polish food and very authentic music in the ballroom of the PLC. The youth of our parish and their families from EDGE stepped up and worked all day setting tables, decorating and then serving food and cleaning up. They did an outstanding job! A portion of the proceeds from this event will be used to offset transportation costs for the Covecrest Catholic camp this summer. Thank you very much to Michelle Standish for coordinating this fantastic event.

You will notice that the collection summary has changed and is now listed as a collection distribution. I thought it would be helpful for our parishioners to see the distribution of funds received rather than simply a grand total. I will experiment with the formatting and data included for the next couple of weeks until I arrive at a format that I feel will be most beneficial to you. This week I have included the detailed breakdown of checks received through envelopes only. Please contact me with any comments or suggestions with regards to what you would like to see.

Family Name _____

Household:
Names: Husband _____ email _____

Wife _____

Children Age____ _____ email _____

Age____ _____ email _____

Age____ _____ email _____

Age____ _____ email _____

Address _____

City_____ State____ Zip_____ Phone_____

In His work together,

Scott Schlossberg, MBA
General Manager