

Brothers and Sisters,

As I approach my one-year anniversary at St. Peter's, I continue my daily prayer of thanksgiving to God. I am very blessed to be a part of this faith-filled community and excited about all the good (God) things happening. Planning efforts on multiple fronts have begun as we anticipate our Bicentennial Anniversary (2020).

1. **Mission Advancement Planning (MAP)** – this fall's survey launched a new annual cycle of developing St. Peter's parish through a continuous process of learning, discerning and doing the Lord's work of building God's Kingdom. Attached you will find a very preliminary overview of the survey results. The MAP Team will work in the coming months to further analyze your input and provide information to the staff and Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), to develop strategies to enhance the life of our parish and our community.
2. **Facilities Planning** – recently, a comprehensive study of our church, rectory and associated facilities was completed. The report details the major parish facility needs that we can anticipate over the next ten years. I am organizing a Facilities Committee that will help me develop detailed plans and timelines, in collaboration with PPC and Finance Council members. In addition, the church organ, so heavily damaged in the earthquake of 2011, will be removed in 2018 and replaced with a stunning instrument fitting to this historic church on Capitol Hill (more on this exciting news in the new year).
3. **School Planning** – Principal Clay is working with school lay leaders to assess the possibility of building a multi-purpose space that would well serve our school and parish. An architect is now working with us to plan what may be possible and inform a Capital Campaign in conjunction with the school's 150-year anniversary (2018).
4. **Campaign Planning** – in addition to designing the Mission Advancement Planning process for our parish, *Greater Mission*, a national Catholic Church development firm, is helping us to design a Capital Campaign to be conducted next spring. We will be soliciting your feedback regarding the specific campaign projects in the months ahead.

Please join me in prayers of thanksgiving for the year now concluding, and prayers of petition for the planning and projects in the new year. Together, we will write the next chapter in the remarkable story of St. Peter's on Capitol Hill, counting on the power of the Holy Spirit to grace and guide us in continuing the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Heartfelt blessings to you and your family as we complete our Advent in preparation for the Coming of Christ in our hearts, our homes, and our blessed faith community.

Fr. Gary