

# Blessed Trinity Catholic Community

Sixth Sunday Ordinary time ~ February 15/16, 2020

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REFLECTION DURING THE HOMILY

## Introducing the Blessed Trinity Capital Campaign 2020

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My husband David and I are new to both Missoula and Blessed Trinity. We retired here from San Diego, CA, 2 ½ years ago. As I listened to the thoughtful sharing by Gary Weisbrich and Joe Licitra, I noticed how much in common our experiences were despite coming to Blessed Trinity at very different times. What struck David and I from the very first moment that we walked through the doors of Blessed Trinity was how very genuinely warm and welcoming everyone was. From Pat Wegner and Marge Nordin who greeted us at the door to Father Ed who took the time before Mass to introduce himself and ask about our first visit to the church while on vacation here in Missoula.

Having been active members of our former parish for over 40 years, we knew finding a new church was going to be a challenge. But after the warm and caring way in which we were treated here that day, we knew we had found a new home. I remember that we spontaneously looked at each other, smiled, and said "This is it." This feeling of becoming part of a family is what drew us to Blessed Trinity without reservation. And this is also why I feel it is important to take an active part in this new growth phase of our parish.

Whether you are a lifelong Catholic like myself or are new to the faith, each of us has been a witness to the way faithful parishioners of other churches have answered the call to create a place of worship for their community and visitors to gather and show their love of Christ. Their communal sacrifice made it possible for all who came to them to have a haven, a place where no one is a stranger, where everyone could concretely experience the universal feeling of a family coming together to worship our Lord as one.

I have been truly blessed by so many other Catholics who provided a place where I could go to Mass, receive my sacraments and raise our sons in faith. With the introduction of the Capital Campaign, I began to reflect on these experiences. I was filled by the Spirit with a feeling of gratitude, of thanksgiving for this precious gift of faith. It became even more important to me to be part of an opportunity to give back so that others could continue to share in the same kind of welcoming spirit, one that David and I continue to experience here at Blessed Trinity.

Our Capital Campaign theme of "HONOR the past, SERVE the present, PROVIDE for the future," is an affirmation for me of the feelings of gratitude, of thanksgiving, that I am being focused on by the Spirit. I read a recent quote by Melanie Beattie about gratitude; she said, "Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates vision for tomorrow." I want to think of this fund-raising effort as another opportunity to trust in God and say "yes" to the challenges we will face; to continue what others began, and provide for the future of our house of God.

I believe that the past that we will honor, the roots that we preserve, are far deeper than what we have experienced here in our parish. Each of us will be honoring our life-long gift of faith; that seed which was planted in us long ago, so that it might take root and grow to help us to be of service throughout our lives.

It is an opportunity to show our trust in God and know that He will give us what we need to fully support this vision and make it a reality.

Our current faith community will be enriched by the changes that become a reality through our Capital Campaign. But I firmly believe that it is important to remember that we will be providing for the future. We want the new members of our family of faith to experience what David and I felt as they walk through our doors; the love, and faith-filled commitment that is, and always will be, the community of Blessed Trinity.

