

Blessed Trinity Catholic Community

Third Sunday Ordinary time ~ January 25/26 2020

Gary Weisbrich, Chair Capital Campaign Team: REFLECTION DURING THE HOMILY

Introducing the Blessed Trinity Capital Campaign 2020



Honoring the past

It was almost 6 ½ years ago that we arrived in Missoula. We traveled 1,200 miles from South Dakota. It was Oct. 12th 2013 our first Sunday and we sat in the back row like good Catholics. We were greeted immediately by Fr. Ed and many others. We felt welcomed, the first impression was a lasting impression. I remember very vividly that weekend because it was children's liturgy. The gospel reading was about the 10 lepers and only the one that returned. In the children's liturgy, the leader asked if any of the kids new what a Leper was. Matthew raised his hand high, and then mumbled "Well, you see, it's 'sumpin' like a cheetah with spots". How fitting. Some of you have been here from the start and I am sure remember the hard work, the emotions of leaving something familiar and joining together in teamwork. Many others here fall somewhere in between.

Serving the present

From that day forward, we were welcomed unconditionally by everyone. In fact, there were many times when parishioners helped us out with our kids when we were lecturing or a Eucharistic Minister. Sometimes even now it feels like we are fighting a battle just getting the kids to mass and trying to get clothes on them and many of you have said how good we are as parents and that is so affirming when we feel so exhausted after mass. We are blessed to have had Marcus baptized here, Matthew and Michael receive first communion and both Angela and I have been anointed before surgeries. Being a part of the sacraments as a parish family has provided us with hope and strength. Judy Cooney has been amazing with what she offers for the youth at parish faith formation, Children's Liturgy as well as the Wednesday night youth groups where our kids have invited their friends from other churches. Maria has been a part of legendary lodge summer camp for two years. The food bank: Joan Dodge tells us to bring the kids and they love it. Family Promise: our kids have been able to meet other kids. No Room at the Inn. The wonderful dinners that so many help to put on and the wonderful food, faith and fellowship.

Providing for the future

Finally, Providing for the future. About 7 months ago I was asked to be a member of the Capital campaign committee and if you know me, I am not big in asking for money. If that wasn't enough, after the first meeting Fr. Ed and Mary Jo asked if I would chair the committee.... And I thought oh no, what I am I doing... I didn't ask for this! I have to say it has been a joy. We have now been at this as a capital campaign committee for 7 months. We have met 9 different times. The committee is so talented and the collective wisdom of

everyone has spurred great discussion. We want to honor the many meetings that took place the past two years; Maintain, Renew and Imagine. We started off with much bigger ambitions, but after many meetings realized that we need to scaled back to a goal that is attainable. I realize that many of you here are on a fixed income and like our family with 5 kids, it can be challenging to set aside our money for church needs, yet, we have to do this at home periodically so that we can continue to live in it. Much the same, many of you have sacrificed to make Blessed Trinity a vibrant parish and I thank you for that. So many have paved the way for us and we now stand on their shoulders to continue this vision so that our children and grandchildren not only have a church, but a vibrant parish. I know the gospel spoke about the calling of the apostles how they left their nets and followed him. Their nets were their livelihood, so to leave them and follow Jesus denotes something intentional as well as something urgent. Our vision is intentional and there is an urgency to it as well. This is a big challenge and yet Jesus tells us, we are not alone, and we don't go at it alone. He say's I am with you and I will multiply your generosity 30, 60 and a 100 fold. Thank you.

