



St. John Chrysostom Parish
617 South Providence Road, Wallingford, Pa. 19086
610.874.3418 www.sjcparish.org

December 2015

Dear Friends,

Our parish family closes 2015 abundant in blessings, alive in the Spirit, and graced by growth. The seeds of this growth were planted in 2013, when more than 200 parishioners gathered at two Assemblies to discern the direction of the Spirit for our worshipping community. From those meetings emerged a vision of a revitalized parish compelled by Jesus's call to act, serve and love our neighbors ... around the corner and around the world.

Today, the Spirit and your generosity have brought us new ministries (Persons with Disabilities, Drop-in Faith Sharing, our Joyful Heart Band, and more); new staff members devoted to our ministries and our homebound; and expanded outreach by our many longstanding ministries. Our Prayer Shawl Ministry creates hundreds of beautiful items each year for new parents and the needy. Our Justice & Peace Committee works tirelessly on initiatives to promote peace and social justice. Everywhere, parishioners are rolling up their sleeves and, as Pope Francis would say, "getting their hands dirty" in order to serve.

Most important, people are turning to St. John's to worship and share the Eucharist. Our weekend Mass attendance is up 24 percent in one year! Some are returning to their faith after many years. We are blessed by the presence of all.

And yet, all of this new life has also brought us to a crossroads. Ministries vie for limited meeting space, filling every room of our campus and even canceling meetings when space is unavailable. Every parish staff member (including me) shares an office. One staff member must work from home.

Privacy and confidentiality, which are essential in meeting pastoral needs, are a challenge. And all of our meeting spaces have limits to their accessibility. We are making the best possible use of our limited resources, but our continued growth will not make this viable in the long term.

For these reasons, I gathered 12 parishioners (named below) this fall to assess the viability of renovating our former convent, vacated in 2014, to provide fully accessible gathering space for ministries and parish functions, as well as additional room for parish administration.

We will be seeking your input to develop the type of space that will enable us to achieve our parish mission: to live out the mission of Jesus through worship, service and charity. Of course, I will provide regular updates as our work takes shape. Meanwhile, I ask that you keep this parish endeavor in your thoughts and prayers.

Gratefully,


Fr. Ed Hallinan

John Bowie – Michael Broome – Mary Chollet – Jerry Dewees – Rosemary Endres – Tom Grogan
Kathleen Kinne – Vincent Marriott – Ernie Menold – Jack Quindlen – Sheila Reese – Debra Traini