

## *A Letter From Our Pastor*

Dear My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When looking back at the journey of Our Lady of Lourdes parish, we recognize that God has bestowed countless blessings upon our parish. First of all, we must thank God, through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, that He has transformed 25 acres of marshland into a magnificent place of worship and center for the transmission of faith and community life. Next, we must be grateful and pray for the elders and ancestors who have sacrificed through their own sweat and tears and have saved every penny to leave the ancestral home for our descendants and future generations.

Having looked at the past, we also need to look at the present and future needs of the parish:

- 1/ The old parish hall (built 28 years ago) is now seriously degraded, and no longer suitable for use. Renovations are too expensive and still will be insufficient to accommodate the growing parish activities.
- 2/ The old parish hall is also too small (capacity is only about 300 people) compared to more than 4,000 parishioners active in the parish. The hall simply does not have the capacity to accommodate any large functions or gatherings for the parish.
- 3/ All of our parish organizations need large room and spaces to meet and hold activities – this is especially true for our youth who currently lack the means and facilities to grow.

After many years of consideration and research, we believe that building a new "Activity Center" is the best solution to meet the current and future needs of the parish.

Building up the parish is a common duty of every family in the parish. In order to build for the future, we must have the necessary facilities to transmit the faith to the next generation, to maintain our Vietnamese culture, to foster our family's culture and morality, and to serve the community together. Therefore, we earnestly invite everyone, from all walks of life, inside and outside the parish, to actively cooperate with our priests and brothers and sisters in the Finance and Pastoral Councils in building up the parish.

Through the power of prayer in a spirit of unity, with love and support for your own children, we ask that you lend a financial helping hand in this program, so to “Walking Together Toward the Future” with our children. We trust that God will continue to bless our sacrifices and efforts.

May God, through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Joseph, make the construction of the "Activity Center" from inception to completion always be pleasing to Him.

Pastor



Rev. Dominic Trinh The Huy, O.P.