



Holy Angels Catholic Church
138 N. Eighth Avenue
West Bend, WI 53095
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Dear

Hard to believe that the Advent Season is already upon us. Taken literally, Advent is defined as the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event. For Catholics we add just a bit more. We are asked to direct our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. Much as we anticipate the upcoming Holiday Season, let us also anticipate the celebration of our Lord's birth here on earth.

On December 3, 2023, an announcement was published in the Sunday bulletin that referenced irregularities in the anticipated pledges for the Love One Another Capital Campaign. The purpose of this Parish wide letter is to provide additional detail regarding the issue and to alleviate any concerns regarding the funds collected and already appropriated.

Specifically, the organization *hired by the Archdiocese* to identify and collect the promised pledges reported fraudulent amounts negatively impacting our total pledged amount. In summary, large amounts were reported as "future pledges" when in fact these amounts were falsified.

The falsified reporting of pledges was limited to one specific person working for the company who manages the pledge cards. This person is no longer working with that company. There was no monetary reward for this one deceitful person as this company is not paid a percentage of the funds collected. The motivation to falsify remains unknown to Holy Angels.

What we do know is that every falsified pledge held common themes:

- 1) Large amounts (\$100,000 & \$200,000 pledges over three years)
- 2) Donors that wished to remain anonymous.
- 3) Donors that wished NOT to be contacted regarding their pledge.

Your anticipated question of "Where were the checks and balances in this process" is very valid. We forcefully presented this same question and process improvements have been made to prevent future occurrences. Small consolation to Holy Angels but perhaps we prevented other Parishes from this same fate.

The financial impact of this issue to Holy Angels Parish:

The total pledge amount reported including falsified amounts	\$2,400,000.
The total amount of falsified pledges affecting Holy Angels Parish	\$1,600,000.
Actual pledge amount anticipated	\$800,000.

Terms of the Love One Another Capital Campaign:
Holy Angels receives 60% of the pledged amount (\$800,000).
Total amount anticipated to be received: \$480,000.

Falsified pledges of \$1,600,000 equal a “shortfall” of \$960,000 to our Parish (\$1,600,000 X 60%)

From a budgetary position, we anticipate that the Columbarium project will not be affected to a large degree but there will be a need to find some additional funding. Once the project is closer to completion, we will know that amount. Additionally, this places a HARD CANCELLATION on several capital projects planned in 2024 and 2025.

Fortunately, our Parish Trustees and Finance Committee all have strong business acumen. For this we are grateful as they use that experience to continually steer the Parish in a fiscally responsible manner. An example of this was the combined decision to NOT commit future funding before it was received. The same cannot be said regarding the other 12 parishes affected by this deceit.

Please be assured that this does not affect any money given to the capital campaign, only pledges for the future. The money from those who have fulfilled all, or part of their pledges, is safe. If you’ve made a commitment to the campaign, thank you. These monies are not affected and can all be accounted for.

The contributions each of you has made continues to support our Parish in a positive and meaningful way. Thank you!

If you have any questions, are concerned about your individual contributions, wish to discuss what this means for your future contributions, or desire more information, please reach out to me or one of our two Parish Trustees, Amy Schmidt & Tom Feldhusen. Their contact phone and emails are listed below.

Thank you for your attention. Together we continue to remember that all we have is a gift from The Lord. Thankful that Advent is upon us and the promise of our Lord’s Unconditional Love.

Christ’s Blessings,

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