

January 2021

Dear parishioners,

I want to extend my thanks to all of you as we begin a New calendar year. Also, "Thank you" for the generosity you extend to the parish and to me personally. This Christmas, I received gifts of food, wine and spirits and money. Since my ordination, 33 years ago, I have given the money I receive at Christmas to the missions. This year, I sent an e-transfer for 1,000.00 to CNEWA, i.e., [Catholic Near East Welfare Association](#). This charity supports those fleeing war, terror, starvation etc. in countries like Syria and so many others. WHO reports that 130 million die fleeing war and famine; this year, due to the pandemic, the number will double to 260 million!

I have warm clothing, I live in a comfortable residence, I have enough food to feed a family of eight!

Sadly, according to a national poll in the USA, 37% of Catholics are seriously considering leaving the Church because of scandal. The two major areas of scandal are sexual and clerical, the latter is tainted by the misuse of money. The latter makes me shake my head in disgust. As Bishop Barron writes in his "[Letter to a Suffering Church](#)" "*A priest whose central preoccupation is money or pleasure or power or career advancement or fame will, sooner or later, fall apart and wreak havoc around him.*" I don't want to be that priest.

Last year, I supported [Immaculée Ilibagiza's charity in Rwanda](#) and this year's donation was noted above for the plight of refugees. Please know that your gift to me is expanded and that those helped by your money, **will thank you**, for giving to me. You will meet these people in heaven.

God bless you and please know that I pray for the parish every day and that I love you all and love Annunciation Parish. I am happy to be your priest and am content to remain here for as long as I am needed.

Peace,

Fr. Terry