



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

222 North Seventeenth Street • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-1299
Telephone (215) 587-0506 • Fax (215) 587-4545

OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

July 2020

Dear Monsignor/Father,

These past few months have been undeniably challenging for everyone in your parish communities. I know the stresses of running a parish under normal conditions in our Archdiocese. I've been in your shoes. The additional obstacles we're facing have made your pastoral and administrative duties even more taxing. While the pandemic has brought about many complications, we have also seen an outpouring of our Catholic community's support. We have seen hope flourish. I encourage you to thank those who have shown generosity to your parish over the past several months. While much uncertainty remains, action is essential now to ensure your parish is as prepared as possible and best positioned for sustainability.

While the life of your parish community has likely felt strain in various ways, the current climate has brought financial burden to the forefront. I know that each of you faces a different fiscal reality and that many of you have been working to address difficulties. The necessary recovery efforts may be beyond the realm of the possible given the time and resources at your disposal. For that reason, I asked The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia to create a special opportunity for all parishes as they seek to recover offertory lost during the suspension of public Masses: ***Moving Forward: Parish Stewardship Renewal***.

The Foundation developed this initiative with my support to help overcome the unique obstacles your parish is currently facing, while also looking to the future. The ***Moving Forward: Parish Stewardship Renewal*** has two components: restoration and enhancement. This fall, the Foundation's staff is available to assist your parish in conducting a restoration appeal that is tailored to meet your needs. These appeals can be new opportunities, or they can strengthen your current block collection or fall appeal. You can read more information on the following pages about both restoration and enhancement.

There will also be an opportunity in the spring with the option of a restoration appeal or an offertory enhancement program, depending on your parish's needs. The Foundation has developed a flexible approach allowing you to participate in ***one*** or ***both*** of these phases. **The Foundation realizes the significant impact of the coronavirus on our parishes and has graciously agreed to waive all associated staff costs. You will only need to consider associated printing and postage costs (estimates on the following pages.) The Foundation will also grant full or partial printing and postage costs based on a parish's ability to pay.**

I encourage you to learn more about the opportunity that the ***Moving Forward: Parish Stewardship Renewal*** brings to your parish and to reach out to the Foundation as soon as possible to reserve your spot for the opportunity to be part of the fall phase.



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As you navigate the months ahead, please know you are not alone. The ***Moving Forward: Parish Stewardship Renewal*** is just one example of our Catholic community coming together in support of each other. Please be assured of my continued gratitude for your ongoing service and dedication to all those entrusted to your care as well as my prayers for you and your intentions.

Fraternally Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nelson J. Pérez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez,
D.D.
Archbishop of Philadelphia