



November 11, 2021

P O BOX 289
LAGUNITAS CA 94938

Dear parishioners, benefactors and friends of St. Cecilia/St. Mary churches,

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, I send this letter to you with a message for a happy Thanksgiving for you and your family. We have all been through a very difficult time with the global pandemic and difficult economic times. Then how can we express our gratitude? Even when you've experienced terrible times, it is possible to find something that you can be grateful for, such as life, love, relationships, family and friends. Try to look for the positive things. We know that tough times don't last forever and that eventually our lives will return to normal. Here are some truths: "There is always light at the end of the tunnel" (Ada Adams); "After every storm, there is a rainbow" (Shannon Alder).

Every year we send out a Christmas blessing letter, but this year I feel I should send you a letter for Thanksgiving. As you celebrate Thanksgiving, and other special events in your life, would you consider sharing your gifts to help support our church community, to maintain our house of God and keep up your spiritual home?

As I have announced in church the last couple of weeks, the latest round of storms has made it quite evident that we can no longer delay replacing the roof over St. Cecilia's church, the hall and the rectory. We have many buckets catching the water from the multiple leaks in the roofs. The estimate for the roof replacement is about \$72,000 and the work is scheduled to begin on November 29 and will continue for 4 to 5 days, depending on the weather. St. Cecilia's parish will be paying for the church and 60% of the rectory with St. Mary's paying for 40% of the rectory (about \$11,000).

Because of the pandemic we have been unable to hold the many fundraising events we normally hold such as the Palm Sunday Brunch, rummage sale, Christmas events, etc. Because of this, I am asking you for a special donation at this time to help cover the cost of the new roof. This can be done in several ways: making a direct donation to the church specifying "new roof" and also by attending one or both of the two fundraisers that are scheduled for December. I have attached flyers describing in full the two Christmas events. Please read them and try to join your parish community for an evening of fun and companionship. Your participation would be very much appreciated by the church communities!

I wish you a happy Thanksgiving and a pleasant time with your family and friends. May God abundantly bless you for your generous hearts!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Ngoan Van Phan".

Fr. Ngoan Van Phan, Pastor

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