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April 20, 2020

Dear friends and parishioners of St. Augustine's,

I am sending this email on behalf of the broader Parish community, including the Parish Council and the Finance Council. First and foremost, this letter is to wish you a Happy Easter season and to let you know that you and your family remain in my daily prayers as our nation endures the real pain of the COVID-19 pandemic. Easter is a time to celebrate our Christian hope, and during this most difficult time, we hope for a sure and steady return to normality in our daily and spiritual lives. Above all, let us not lose hope. In his March 19th Message of Encouragement to the Diocese, Archbishop Terrence Prendergast encouraged us all together to make an extra effort to implore God's providential intervention in this time of trial.

We are also mindful that this serious public health challenge may have greatly disrupted your lives and impacted some of you negatively, both socially and financially. The Diocese, the Parish community, and I know that you must take all of this into account as I now raise the issue of Parish finances.

The current crisis affects the life of our parish drastically. Since our church has closed for now, we have lost the Mass as the weekly highpoint of our Christian life. This has had a huge impact on our spiritual lives. Weekend Masses are also how the majority of regular donations come in.

We would like to ask you, to the extent that you are able, to support our Parish financially even in this challenging time when we cannot celebrate Mass together, choosing one of the following options:

1. Drop off in the rectory mailbox, or mail a cheque weekly or monthly to the church: St. Augustine Parish, 1060 Baseline Road, Ottawa, ON, K2C 0A6.
2. Sign up for automated donations from your bank account. Attached is a form with all of the information needed to start these payments.

As we wait in hope for an end to this crisis, I am sure we will overcome the challenges ahead in a spirit of community, family, generosity, and dedication to the Church.

Sincerely,

Father Francis Scott Pastor, St. Augustine Parish