

Saint

Clement

Church

Lakewood, Ohio

Restoration and  
Development  
Campaign

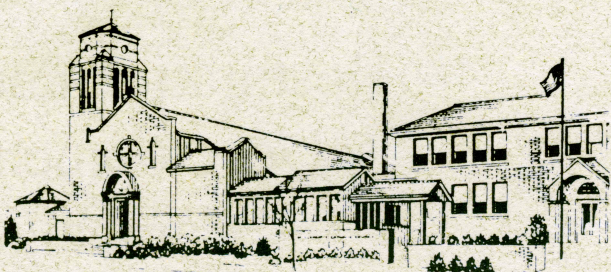
April, 1996

Dear Parishioner,

As I walked through the quiet of our church after Mass on Sunday, I could feel the solemnity, mystery, and majesty of our history as St. Clement Parish. If the pews could talk, how much they would say! These masterfully built pieces of oak, lined up like soldiers at attention, were filled with strength and tenderness, joys and sorrows, dreams fulfilled and tears wiped away. There is our history as a Church and as a parish. So many people over the past 75 years have gathered together as a believing, worshipping community to touch the presence of God. Whether new to the parish or an "old timer," all of us have benefited from what has been given to us by those "who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith". And to them we are most grateful. They provided for us a church to worship in, a school to excel in, and a hall to greet our friends in. This is our history, a treasured gift given to us to rejoice in today and to hand on to the future.

The 75th Anniversary (April 27, 1997) of our parish is a proper occasion to review the physical needs of our buildings. But there is also a certain urgency here. The roofs of the church and school need immediate attention, lest there be more damage to the plaster. The gutters leak so badly they could create a dangerous situation, especially in winter. The pipe organ has been silent for a number of years. Not to restore it and improve it would be to lose a great asset to our worship. My hope is to improve the interior of our church with a fresh coat of paint, a renewed pipe organ and an additional hymnal; repair and reseal the parking lots; fix the school roof; update the school computer lab; paint and carpet the parish meeting rooms (rm. 8 & 9 in school); repair the rectory basement office (damaged by past floods); replace the rectory phone system (damaged by lightning); provide salaries that help maintain competent teachers and pastoral staff; and to establish a fund to handle extraordinary expenses. I want this to be a parish you can be proud of and to which you are proud to belong.

To accomplish these goals the Parish Finance Council has established a Development Campaign with a target goal of \$600,000. It is necessary, and it can be achieved. I am asking each family to make these hopes and dreams for St. Clement Parish their own and to respond generously to the campaign. We will not all give equally, but I hope all will make an equal sacrifice. Together everyone benefits.



Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Alfred H. Winters*

Rev. Alfred H. Winters

Pastor

## THE CHALLENGE FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY TODAY

Seventy-five years ago (April 27, 1922) Bishop Joseph Schrembs announced that a much needed church would be built in the heart of Lakewood on Madison Avenue. Approximately 100 families met at the Homestead Theater Building and accepted the challenge to make St. Clement Church a reality by giving of their time, talent and treasure. The ministry of dedicated service which they embraced continues still today.

Believing that God is present among us, we continue to worship together, proclaiming the Word, celebrating the sacraments and ministering to the sick and needy. We continue to evangelize, to educate, and to restore and develop our parish community.

Now, even as our first parishioners planned with a vision to the future, so must we plan for the next millennium. It is our responsibility, not only to preserve, but to enrich and expand the legacy of our founders. We owe a debt of gratitude to those who built the church, school and rectory. It is up to us to maintain buildings we can be proud of and to do so in a way that looks to economy of repair and maintenance in the future.

For this reason, after months of prayer and discernment, St. Clement Parish is ready to implement a capital campaign to raise \$600,000. This money is needed for capital improvements to all the buildings that make up the parish complex and for the establishment of a Development/ Maintenance Fund that will enable us to invest money for unexpected future expenses.

We, the parish family of St. Clement, must supply the means to bring this project to fruition by doing the best we can with our financial resources. We have proven ourselves to be good stewards. Now is the time to move ahead with conviction, foresight and, most of all, with faith. Now is the time to assure our children and future generations that St. Clement will provide them with a nurturing place in which to worship and grow spiritually.

