

My Dear Parishioners,

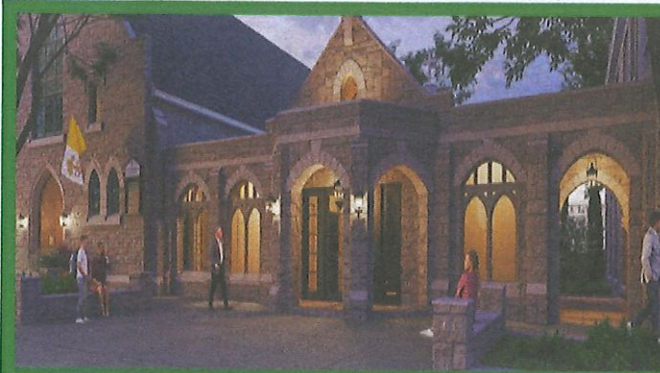
Praised be Jesus Christ and Happy New Year! This New Year, each pastor in the Archdiocese and his pastoral council has been asked to identify and submit to the Archdiocese three pastoral priorities for their parishes moving forward in the coming years. Our Pastoral Council has been working closely in recent months in doing this and we've been encouraged to be **SMART** in naming our priorities. That is to say: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound. Rather than just creating a list of good intentions, we want to be SMART in naming our priorities.

I share this with you on the first of the year, because it reminds me of good resolutions. And as we make resolutions, it's good to have SMART resolutions: Identify daily doings, concrete commitments that can become habits. Matthew Kelly's book **Holy Moments**, encourages such an approach. And so too does the Season of Christmas – God's Self-Revelation. We profess an Incarnate Faith.

And so, I share with you some of **Pope Francis' New Year's Resolutions**. This list dates back to 2015/16 but is still quite good. How might just one of these become Incarnate in you this year?

236

1. "Take care of your spiritual life, your relationship with God, because this is the backbone of everything we do and everything we are."
2. "Take care of your family life, giving your children and loved ones not just money, but most of all your time, attention and love."
3. "Take care of your relationships with others, transforming your faith into life and your words into good works, especially on behalf of the needy."
4. "Be careful how you speak, purify your tongue of offensive words, vulgarity and worldly decadence."
5. "Heal wounds of the heart with the oil of forgiveness, forgiving those who have hurt us and medicating the wounds we have caused others."
6. "Look after your work, doing it with enthusiasm, humility, competence, passion and with a spirit that knows how to thank the Lord."
7. "Be careful of envy, lust, hatred and negative feelings that devour our interior peace and transform us into destroyed and destructive people."
8. "Watch out for anger that can lead to vengeance; for laziness that leads to existential euthanasia; for pointing the finger at others, which leads to pride; and for complaining continually, which leads to desperation."
9. "Take care of brothers and sisters who are weaker ... the elderly, the sick, the hungry, the homeless and strangers, because we will be judged on this."
10. "Making sure your Christmas is about Jesus and not about shopping."



LIVING STONES APPEAL  
St. Patrick Connecting Cornerstones Project

Congratulations to St. Patrick Parish for meeting our Matching Gift Challenge and many thanks to all our parishioners who helped make this possible.

As we enter into the New Year of 2023, let us continue the momentum to reach our goal of \$1.5 million. Together let us make the Connecting Cornerstones Project a reality.

To learn more about the Connecting Cornerstones Project and ways that you can donate, please visit:

[www.stpatrickkennettsquare.org/living-stones-appeal](http://www.stpatrickkennettsquare.org/living-stones-appeal).

