



# IT'S TIME FOR US TO MAKE IT RIGHT

## *Part 4*

*At the sound of the beep, please advance the filmstrip one frame.*

That was the mark of high technology in my elementary school classroom of the early 1970s. Some filmstrips (not all, mind you) had separate audio recordings so that the students or teacher didn't have to read the subtitles at the bottom of the frame. We thought we were so sophisticated!

After filmstrips came 16mm movies. After movies came videotape. And somewhere in there, I recall my high school math teacher taught every lesson using a 3M overhead projector on which he wrote with a black wax pencil and wiped clean with Windex and a paper towel. That was the educational technology of the 1970s and 80s.

It was a dramatic advance from 1925 when our school building was erected at Saint Thomas the Apostle. In those days, I suspect, the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet would have been thrilled to have a phonograph to be shared throughout the building.

Not surprisingly, our building was built for its time. Electrical outlets were scarcely needed, so electrical outlets were scarcely provided. Now, we live in a much different time.

Our teachers use smart board projection computers. Our children make frequent use of tablet computers, other computers are placed throughout the building, and every classroom is filled with a dozen electronic devices of one type or another.

And still, our building's electrical service reflects those days of phonographs and filmstrips.

Over in our parish center, the electrical issues are not as extensive, but there are some things that need to be addressed. Some light fixtures no longer work. Others are insufficient to our needs. Outside, along the sidewalks and parking lot, there is inadequate lighting. Anyone who's left an January evening meeting in the parish center can tell you that it's impossible to see the ice under-foot when walking to their car.

Some of these are matters of convenience; many of them are matters of safety. Our anticipated capital campaign will provide the monies needed to improve the electrical systems in both of these buildings, allowing us to meet the needs of education and administration in the 21st century. It's time of us to make it right!

*Father Michael Reding*