



IT'S TIME FOR US TO MAKE IT RIGHT

Part 6

Saturday, July 6, 2013: I celebrated my first weekend Mass at Saint Thomas the Apostle. Afterward, many folks greeted me in the gathering space and welcomed me warmly. One parishioner said to me, "There are a lot of issues with our buildings that need to be addressed. For example, the frames on those upper windows in the church have rotted, and they could fall in at any time."

Well! Welcome to Saint Thomas!

Since then, I've watched our windows carefully. I discovered that the wood-framed windows high up in the church have indeed rotted, but they're not the worst windows in the place. The worst ones are the windows on the northeast tower. On days when I stand outside and look at them, I marvel that the glass is still in place at all, and I say a little prayer: "One more year, Lord. Just give us one more year."

Over the last few years, we've done a thorough inventory of our windows throughout the parish plant. We've concluded that those rotted wood-framed windows on the tower and the upper windows of the church must be replaced; we simply can't wait any longer. The windows on the school have aluminum frames and are sound. Some of them require repairs and sealing, but we can expect them to provide us with more years of service. The wood-framed casement windows on our parish center are mostly sound. Some need a bit of adjustment and repair, but we expect that these, too, can serve us for a long time to come. The wooden-framed windows of our gymnasium are nearing the end of their life, but because the parish might want to consider some future improvements and modifications to the gymnasium several years from now, we've concluded that the best course presently will be to repair, paint, and seal the current windows in the gym.

Making these improvements will, of course, make our buildings more energy efficient. It will also allow me to sleep better at night, knowing that I'm not likely to walk into church some morning and find that our windows have collapsed, and sparrows are bathing in our baptismal font.

Monies raised from our anticipated capital campaign will allow us to repair and replace windows as needed. It's time for us to make it right!



Father Michael Reding

This is the last in a series of six columns describing our needs for building improvements. If you've missed any of the previous columns, please visit our web site www.stthomasmpls.org and click on *Capital Campaign 2018*.