

O U R L A D Y

OF PERPETUAL HELP

March Letter to Ministers of Praise

March, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am thrilled to be writing to you once again and I hope that this letter finds you happy and in good health. These winter months can be a difficult time for all of us. In between the gray weather and biting cold it can be hard to remember that spring is around the corner. I have to say, however, that this has thankfully been brief and mild with only a few moments of heavy snow. It has certainly been a blessed relief for Tony and our maintenance staff as snow removal hasn't been nearly as bad as the forecasters had been predicting. Let's pray that soon enough we'll see the buds returning to our gardens and hear the sounds of birds singing once again!

On another note I wanted to relay some information regarding our recent Capital Campaign. As you know, our parish had two major projects in mind when we went about raising money this fall. The two projects were a complete overhaul of our parking lot with much needed repairs as well as village mandated improvements, and a refurbishment of our South entrance which includes an elevator to go down to McDonnell Hall. I am pleased to announce that we have surpassed our goal. Because of the generosity of our parishioners we will also be able to carry out some much needed improvements to our Playdium including a new gym floor and bleachers after decades of heavy use.

I want to specifically give you an update on the project that is nearest and dearest to so many of you: the elevator. As the plan stands now, we should break ground for the project in June as soon as school is out. Because of the need to dig a large hole in the ground, it would not be safe to start this project while the children are still walking around the grounds. The project should take approximately five months and will hopefully be done around Thanksgiving, before Christmas. If the weather cooperates it should be a fairly easy project as the ground has barely frozen this winter. In the meantime, temporary handicap accessible entrances will be set up, most likely at the front entrance to the Church. While unforeseen issues always arise in undertakings of this size we are hopeful for its speedy conclusion. Please pray for the success of this project as it will open up so many opportunities for those in our parish who currently cannot get to McDonnell hall.

As you might have heard, this year the Archdiocese is celebrating the Year of the Teen and Young Adults. I would ask that you pray for this important group of people in our Church. I ask that you would pray the following prayer a couple of times a week:

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O God of boundless mercy and goodness,
renew your Spirit within the young men and women of your Church,
so that they can stand strong to hear and follow
your call to transform the face of the earth.

Bless, guide, and accompany all your daughters and sons,
who seek to do your will and wait for the coming of your kingdom.

We pray through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

There are so many serious issues confronting the youth of our world and through our prayer they will be strengthened to face these challenges. I also ask that in our continuing economic troubles, you pray especially for married couples who are going through difficult times because of financial hardship. Marriage and family life can be difficult at times, even more so when money becomes a serious issue. The Pope has two prayer intentions for this month. Firstly, he asks that we pray for the contribution of women, that the whole world may recognize the contribution they make towards the development of society. He also asks that we pray for persecuted Christians, that the Holy Spirit may grant perseverance to those who suffer discrimination, persecution, or death for the name of Christ, particularly in Asia.

In Prayer,

Fr. Elliott