

October 22, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Last Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> was the feast of Saint Bruno, the patron of our city and mother church of San Bruno. What made it even more special to me was that it was my 100<sup>th</sup> day of being the pastor of St. Roberts.

If you were to ask me what I thought or how I feel about St. Roberts and the parishioners after these 100 days, I'd have to borrow the words of the great singer Elvis Presley: *"I Can't Help Falling in Love with You."*

His song is now my song to you: "I can't help falling in love with YOU!" Because the parishioners of St. Roberts are so easy to love and be loved. I feel that the gospel of Matthew becomes alive with you:

*"When I was a stranger, you welcomed me."*

You not only welcome me to this parish, but also to your hearts. After 100 days I still receive cards with beautiful words to welcome me.

*"When I was naked, you clothed me."*

My bedroom was repainted and had a new carpet installed. The rectory has a new water dispenser, security cameras and video doorbell. We now have a blasting speed internet connection for our office and for livestreaming our masses.

*"When I was sick or in prison, you visited me."*

To lose a mother who had given you life to this world and not attend her funeral was a sickening experience, but you were there to comfort me with your love and care. Our St. Robert School children from each class even made personalized cards. Who would not be touched and consoled by the charming gesture of our young children?

*"When I was hungry and thirsty, you fed me and gave me drink."*

When I needed something to be done, you voluntarily offered your service without the need for recognition or compensation. Just recently, when I expressed my desire to have a bell ringing at mass, a parishioner easily volunteered to pay for it.

These wonderful 100 days with you gives me the courage to face what every pastor worries over around this time, making the goal of the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA). As you know, we were given a goal of \$119,261 for this year and so far, we have collected \$63,806.84. That means we still need \$55,454.16 to complete our goal. Am I worried? Maybe, but the last 100 days remind me to always trust the goodness and generosity of our parishioners.

I've always thought that being pastor of a parish does not exempt me from not giving to this appeal. I usually give one percent of the AAA parish goal. I fulfilled this before I left Holy Name. I have doubled my contribution to keep my commitment of one percent to Saint Roberts. However, it's not the amount that counts, but the heart, and there is nothing greater than sharing a piece of your heart, which I'm so blessed to have already gotten to share in each and every one of these last 100 days.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Arnold Zamora