



October 23, 2020

Dear Friends,

Is it just me? I still find myself waking up some days, asking myself, “Is this real?” The events of this year have been so unbelievable, and they continue to unfold in unexpected and unsettling ways. So many plans have changed this year, including ours here at New Roads. While we approached the year with excitement and anticipation, in mid-March it felt like so much good and God-given momentum stopped in its tracks.

And yet—as I reflect on this year in our community, I am filled with so much gratitude. The New Roads community has responded to the challenges of this year with abundant love, hope, and generosity: from choosing to suspend in-person services out of an abundance of love for our neighbors, to gathering “Hope Rocks,” to creatively rethinking ministry, service, prayer, and worship.

St. Joseph and St. Luke began offering online Masses within just a few weeks of the initial shutdown in March, and we’ve continued and improved those experiences on a weekly basis. New Roads members have invited countless friends, family members, and neighbors—near and far—to join us online for worship. New Roads members have stepped into entirely new ways to serve—from leading our weekly Zoom prayer calls to hosting our online chat rooms, and more.

While many churches have struggled financially during this time, our community has given generously this year to support our mission to make disciples and to create new roads to connect people to God. I am deeply grateful for the generosity of our community this year, and I am also deeply aware of our need for your continued support as we look to the year ahead. I write to you today, as I normally do at this time of year, to ask you to consider your financial commitment to our church in the coming year.

Your continued giving is necessary to support the growth and development of our church—our staff team, worship team, and ministry teams; our technology; our children’s programs; and our plans for growth. Every aspect of our ministry relies on the support and

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investment of our parishioners who give sacrificially to create a church where people can grow deeper in faith, a church that outsiders want to call home, and a church for this generation *and* the next one. I truly believe there is no better investment.

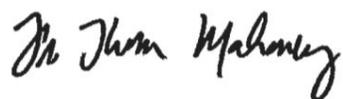
In a time in which so much is divisive, we get to be united around the mission Jesus gave his church—to make disciples and to reach people who feel distant from God. More than a mission, it's a movement—the movement of love in the world. We are united in our mission to spread love, hope, and good news in a world that desperately needs it.

Enclosed please find a Stewardship Card, which will allow you to intentionally plan your giving to the church in the year ahead. Or you can fill out your Stewardship Card online at www.newroadscatholic.org/give. We ask that you prayerfully consider what you can and will give to support New Roads this year and let us know your commitment by returning the enclosed card or completing the card online. As you pray, please join us online on Sunday, November 1st, for Stewardship Sunday as we celebrate how God has been at work in our church this year and together commit to investing in God's Kingdom in the coming year. (Mass times and links to join can be found on our Website.)

Even though I am still adjusting to the strange reality of 2020, I've found myself asking that same question—"Is this real?"—not out of frustration, but out of gratitude. It is remarkable how our community has responded during this time. While so many things remain uncertain about the future, I am confident that our mission remains the same, and I've never been more excited about the future of our church. God is still moving and we are still responding. God is leading all of us on this journey together to make God's love, God's Kingdom, and God's presence more real in this world.

Thank you for your investment in God's Kingdom.

With prayers and gratitude for you and your family, this year and always,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Thom Mahoney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Thom Mahoney