



October 28, 2021

Dear Friends,

During the last couple of years, most of us have been focused on getting by and getting through. That mode of thinking is certainly understandable given all that's been going on in our world. These days though, I am sensing God's invitation to dream again. Not just to dream about the end of the pandemic (as wonderful as that sounds), but to dream with God about what God has in store for us--our lives, our families, our church, and our world.

There are so many places in the world where it's hard to dream. It can even be painful sometimes to dream in a place where it seems impossible to hope for change. The Catholic Church can seem like one of those places where it's hard to dream. Certainly change doesn't come easily or quickly in a 2,000 year old institution. When it comes to change and renewal in the church, a lot of people throw up their hands and say: "Why even try?"

The truth is, dreaming is the first building block to real change, and I believe change in our Church begins not in Rome and not with the bishops or clergy, but in the hearts of the people of God, and in our parishes. That's where this whole New Roads movement started, and that's what is propelling us forward. God planted a vision--a dream--in the hearts of people in this community when we first became a collaborative. God is inspiring us to change the culture of our Church--from one of routine, obligation, and decline to one of creativity, excitement, and new life. Together we are realizing God's dream for our church: solidly built on the foundation of our Catholic tradition, embodying the priorities of Jesus, and re-engaging the modern world with the message of Jesus. Every one of us is called to join in, to dream with God, and to give our unique gifts, our time, and our resources to support this shared dream.

With that in mind, 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. I'm excited about what God is doing in our midst, and I also want to be transparent as your pastor. My biggest challenge has been balancing our annual budget. This year, in a one-time matching gift weekend, we successfully raised some of the funds needed to make renovations to our South Worship Space at St. Joseph. We are so excited about that! However, balancing our annual budget remains a chronic problem.

Our annual budget includes all of our operating expenses, from keeping the lights on to compensating our staff, and it relies completely on your annual support. Within our current budget, which has not increased for many years, we are able to keep the lights on and the

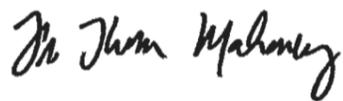
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doors open. We are not able to fairly compensate our staff, all of whom serve generously, working extra hours and serving in multiple roles. We are unable to pay even close to market rate for various roles, making it difficult--if not impossible--for staff to live in this area and support their families. Our current annual budget also makes it difficult to dream about the future. For our parish to grow, I need to be able to pay our staff appropriately and to expand our staff beyond the three part-time and three full-time staff that carry all the responsibilities of managing New Roads. I would love to be able to improve our properties, inside and out, and stop deferring necessary maintenance. I hope to continue to develop our technology to reach those who still don't know about us. I want to be able to dream about the new things God is inviting us to do and to become.

I ask that you prayerfully consider what you can and will give this year to support God's dreams for New Roads, and to help us grow our operating budget. Let us know your commitment by returning the enclosed pledge card, by mail in the enclosed envelope or in person on Sunday, or by completing the pledge card online at [newroadscatholic.org/give](http://newroadscatholic.org/give). As you pray, please join us for worship (in person or online) on Sunday, November 7th, for Stewardship Sunday as we celebrate how we've seen God's dreams becoming reality and as we dream together about God's vision for our future. It will be an inspiring celebration you won't want to miss!

With prayers for God's dreams to be realized in your life and in your family this year,

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

Fr. Thom Mahoney

*Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine,  
by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus  
to all generations, forever and ever. **Ephesians 3:20-21***