

## Fr. Martin's Reflection – January 29, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On January 31 our Annual Catholic Appeal for the 2022 year ends. I am delighted to say that we have reached our goal, and that is all down to your very kind and generous support. Your generosity brings to mind the actions of the early Church, **“There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the feet of the apostles and it was distributed to each as any had need. Acts 4:34-35**

On behalf of all who will benefit, thank you!

### Welcoming New Parishioners

I am delighted to say over the past year we have a growing number of families and individuals joining our parish family. I am delighted that they are making Mary, Mother of the Church Parish their new spiritual home. But I am also very conscious that they are joining a family that doesn't know who they are or what their needs are. This coming Tuesday, January 31, I extend an invitation to all who registered in the parish during 2022 to a **“Meet and Greet”** at Holy Assumption Church, Divine Mercy Room, Roebling at 7pm. The purpose of this gathering is for all our new parishioners to meet each other and for me and the Welcoming Committee to meet them and to welcome them to our parish.

Beginning in March, our online registration and office registration form will be changing to a 'Registration of Interest.' We will host a Welcome Evening and Registration on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at the Parish Office, in Bordentown. This allows me, the pastor, and other team leaders to introduce ourselves to the new parishioners and let them know what it is the parish has to offer and an opportunity for our new parishioners to let us know what they expect from the parish and what they would like to offer the parish. I ask you to keep this new adventure in your prayers and to pray for all our new parishioners that they will find love and a sincere welcome in Mary, Mother of the Church Parish.

*Almighty God, we thank you for the life journey that brought these new parishioners to join our parish. We celebrate the unique impact they will make here and already have made, through their presence, gifts and talents. May this congregation offer support in times of trouble and rejoice with them always. May our parish family strengthen their faith and deepen their discipleship. We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen*

If you are new, or know someone who is looking for a spiritual home please have them come to our Tuesday meeting – all are welcome.

May God bless you and keep you forever close to his kind heart.

*Fr. Martin*