



## ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

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October 19, 2020

Reverend Monsignor Michael E. Turek  
Deacon David I. Harpring  
St. Rita  
8240 Washington St.  
St. Louis, MO 63114

Dear Monsignor Turek, Deacon Harpring, and the Parish Family of St. Rita,

I am grateful of our time to dialogue regarding the present status and future of St. Rita Parish. The town hall meeting was beneficial and it was good to hear your concerns. As I mentioned, I believe it is important to be transparent and acknowledge the current challenges before you as a parish family. I did make one request of you to provide a serious viable plan to Archbishop Rozanski of how you will turn the tide of declining parish households and deficit spending of parish reserves. The objective of this viable plan is to have a more Vibrant, Evangelizing Parish. I have also sent to Deacon Harpring a copy of Archbishop Emeritus Carlson's Seven Signs of a Vibrant, Evangelizing Parish as a resource in composing your plan. I ask that you send your viable parish plan by December 18<sup>th</sup> to Archbishop Rozanski.

I have compiled a list of your concerns. A greater discernment of these concerns may also be helpful as you compose your viable plan with the St. Rita Parish Pastoral Council to present to the Archbishop.

These are the concerns presented from the town hall meeting as follows:

- Every parishioner needs to invite their neighbors/unchurched to become an active part of the parish family.
- St. Rita's Food Panty provides for the poor in the greater community.
- St. Rita Parish has active Men's and Ladies' organizations.
- St. Rita Parish should twin with a parish of financial means to assist in their financial challenges.
- This parish has been generous to the Annual Catholic Appeal, can the Archdiocese offer assistance in their need. Is there a possibility of utilizing the overage of the ACA goal for assisting parishes in financial need?

- St. Rita Parish is the only parish along the Page Avenue corridor.
- The absence of the 5:00 p.m. Mass has contributed to the parish decline.
- Can St. Rita Church downsize to another building?
- There is a wedding scheduled in September. Will the parish church be open for this ceremony?
- If there is a parish closure, can we have a parish Mass celebration for the blessings of the parish over the years?

You can be assured of my prayers for your planning process and parish family. May the Lord bless you with His love and peace!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Mark S. Rivituso, D.D., J.C.L.  
Auxiliary Bishop

CC: Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski, Archbishop  
Reverend Aaron P. Nord