Feb 6-7, 2010

I wish to thank Dan and Chris, not only for taking on the responsibility of making the presentation today but also for their very dedicated help over the past several months.

When I came here as pastor 2.5 years ago the financial issues of the parish stood out an area that need to be addressed. Some areas of spending and cost savings were initiated. But as you heard over the past several months we have reached this crisis point. I have been in dialogue with our diocesan officials, the finance department and the parish planning personnel since I came here and since November we have met on a monthly basis. Of course they want our efforts to succeed.

As you heard there is no bail out…so we have to meet established benchmarks in order to move into the future. As Chris said we are turning to you here present because you have been the heart of this parish over the past years and the future of the parish is in your hands. St. Mark's was founded on the idea that it was a family based faith community. It is a wonderful concept but families also have to make the commitment to worship together and to make the church community a high priority. Sometimes too many other things outside of the church take us away from weekly worship and that is a challenge that each family also has to face

Finally today's presentation is just part of our process of keeping you informed. If you wish to have any follow up to today we will be available the next two Tuesday evenings Feb. 9th and 16th in the parish center at 7:30 p.m.
Also in the bulletin today you will find the names and contact e-mails or phone numbers of several parishioners who have volunteered to be available to you with more detailed information. I want to thank them also for their willingness to make themselves available to the parish families at large. Of course as always I am available at any time to any of you and I will keep you informed on a regular basis of our situation.

I realize this is a difficult time so let us also pray for one another.