



SAINT MARK'S
UNIVERSITY PARISH
ISLA VISTA, CALIFORNIA

2011-2012 ANNUAL APPEAL

Advent, 2011

Dear Parents and Friends of St. Mark's,

This past summer, a student from the nearby Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara visited our Catholic university center to ask if she could use St. Mark's to produce a short film for her motion picture class. The only requirement from the professor was that it be about people who gather together regularly for a reason. I said yes to her because, in my mind, our university parish exists for one simple reason: to reach out and minister to college students in the area, and part of this ministry simply means being available for students and student-based projects. Frankly, I had forgotten about Christen's request until about a month later when she showed me her work. The film turned out to be much more compelling and moving than I could imagine. In fact, the students in the film do a far better job describing our mission than I could ever do on paper. So, I would request that you view this inspiring movie and then make up your own mind about the importance of St. Mark's to the UCSB student community.

Before I give you the link, however, I need to make our annual request on bended knee once again. Please use the enclosed card and try to be generous. **This is the one and only time during the school year that we reach out to our parents for help, and so it is with special importance that you consider making a generous gift to St. Mark's now.**

In these difficult times, I can only thank our dear Lord that so many parents and friends of St. Mark's continue to grant us financial support. Although we do receive some assistance from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, we also desperately need the help of those families who utilize our church facilities and receive student pastoral care. So, on behalf of your student at UCSB and on behalf of the Catholic community of St. Mark's, I can only humbly extend my thanks to you for your continued generosity and support. May God reward your kindness.

Want to see the film? Simply go to www.saint-marks.net and locate the short film on our front page. It's only five minutes long, but I think you will enjoy it.

Blessings to you and your student!

Fr. John W. Love, D.Min.