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### **A Parish Residence for Our Priests**

As your pastor, I have been blessed to serve this community for the past two years. During this time, I have witnessed firsthand the generosity and support of our parishioners. The success of the Going Home Project, which built this church and renovated the parish center *without any debt*, is a testament to your dedication and commitment to our community.

Because of your generosity, the past two years have been a time of great growth and renewal for me, Fr Matt, and the parish community. I would like to thank each of you for your support. Thank you for your continued generosity with your time and treasure. Your service to this parish, your faithful contributions to our offertory each week, your generosity to build this beautiful church and the Parish center, of which we reap the benefits. Even our Archdiocesan Annual Appeal - we always hit or exceed our goal. You inspire me and motivate me to work harder and better every day as your pastor. And I am truly grateful to be a part of our Little Flower community. The archdiocese continues to recognize our parish as a vibrant, flourishing community, which I am proud to shepherd. There is one area where we still need your support: a parish residence for your priests. For several years now, your priests have lived outside Berkeley Heights. Fr Matt has been assigned residence at a nearby parish rectory in Mountainside - Our Lady of Lourdes and I have been assigned residence at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Scotch Plains. This makes it more challenging for us to be fully present as your priests in our community and to serve you in the best possible way. A parish residence would allow us to live among you, to be more accessible to you, and to be more involved in the life of our parishioners, and to be around the families of our beautiful town in Berkeley Heights.

I know that this is a significant request for your support, but - as your pastor - I believe that it is essential for the future of our parish. A parish priest residence will help us to build a stronger community and to provide better pastoral care to our parishioners. We are hosting informational sessions after each Mass on June 1 and 2 in the lower level of the church. The sessions will be informative, so I would love that you could come to that to participate in the conversation.

I ask you to continue to pray for me and Fr Matt, and with us. I extend this request, when we begin the formal process to prayerfully consider making a generous contribution to the parish priest residence fund. Your support will make a real difference in the lives of your priests and in the future of our parish.

- Your Parish Priests, Fr JC and Fr Matthew