

Saint Mary Catholic Church

Finance Council Report to the Parish



Searching for Mona Lisa and Finding Jesus

This summer I had the good fortune to visit a young friend of mine in Europe. We spent a few days in Paris relishing in the rich beauty and history of the city. On the top my list of places to visit was the Louvre Museum of Art. As an art lover, I had always wanted to see the Mona Lisa in person and the Louvre happens to be her permanent home.

The Louvre is a massive structure and finding the Mona Lisa was like being in a corn maze in the fields of Indiana. After literally several hours of roaming through endless halls of art, we finally entered the huge parlor that housed the Mona Lisa. We entered to find hundreds of tourists pushing their way to the front to get a glimpse of this famous lady. I am very sad to say the painting did nothing for me. Feeling disappointed, I hung in the back of the room for a bit watching the spectacle of tourists pushing and shoving. As I casually turned around, I was rendered speechless by the sight of the most beautiful painting I had ever seen. Spanning an entire wall of the parlor, hung a portrayal of the Wedding at Cana with Jesus at the center. It was so lifelike! It was as though Jesus was looking into my soul! After I shook off the chill up my spine, I felt so at peace. Here I was searching for the Mona Lisa and was instead forever touched by this living depiction of Jesus.

Art can really touch our soul and bring a feeling of peace. It allows us to feel . . . through our sense of sight. Art can withstand the test of time and continue to enlighten us for generations. Art has a way of bringing people together in a spiritual way. Who would have thought I would come home to find two such inspirations of art right here at St. Mary's.

I am so proud to say that St. Mary's has embarked on two projects that provide an opportunity to experience Jesus through art. Some months ago, our Parish leadership expressed the desire to install two statues of Jesus on the St. Mary's campus. One statue would reflect Jesus as Teacher and would be placed in the lobby of the school to inspire our young ones. The other statue would be placed in a "Hope Garden" behind the Rectory and would depict a reflection of Jesus as healer. Anyone who has experienced loss would have a quiet place for reflection.

We are blessed to have Parishioners who continue to actively support our mission through their kind donations. Through donations specifically designated for these projects, we have been able to acquire these two very special pieces of art. I often say that analyzing numbers can always tell a story. In this case the generosity of our Parishioners tells an important story - the story of our commitment to our mission. It is this ongoing commitment that will allow St. Mary's to grow and expand the mission God has entrusted to us.

Looking at our two statues, I can tell you that the eyes of Jesus stare right into my soul, just as they did in Paris, and will serve as a permanent inspiration for generations to come. I encourage you to see for yourself.

Cyndi Walsh, Finance Council Chairman

Annual Donations of our 2,554 Parish Households

Finance Council Members

Rev. Pat Kalich
 Cyndi Walsh - Chairman
 Mary Anne Abraham
 Michael Grant
 Steve Johnson
 Jan Mucha
 Joe O'Keefe

Parish Facts

Total Families: **2,554**

New Families This Year:
162

Total Weekly Parish
 Volunteers: **400**

Students educated at St.
 Mary School: **535**

Children Served Through
 Faith Formation: **546**

Families Assisted by Food
 Pantry: **1,239**

Bags of Food Distributed:
3,601

2

Liturgical Services:

Masses Said at our
 Parish: 655

Baptisms: 118

1st Communions: 144

Confirmations: 126

Marriages: 22

Funerals: 45

Households	Total Annual Offertory	%of Total Collections
900	No Recorded Gift	0.00%
1,027	Less than \$500	16.70%
340	\$500 to \$1,000	23.98%
146	\$1,000 to \$1,500	17.68%
106	\$1,500 to \$3,000	21.86%
32	\$3,000 to \$10,000	14.85%
3	\$10,000 to \$50,000	4.93%

CSA Update - Just Short of our Goal!

As good stewards we have made a considerable commitment to the annual Catholic Services Appeal this year. As of August 24, 2011, pledges have totaled **\$63,708** representing 15% of parish families. As a parish our goal for the year is 100% participation or **\$73,390**, leaving a shortfall of **\$9,682**. If you haven't already, please consider a donation to the CSA before 2011 comes to a close.

The Total Expense to Advance our Mission

The following lists our budgetary expenses for the fiscal year 2010/2011 as a percentage of total cost.

General Operations	33%
Staff	33%
School Subsidy	24%
Diocese	7%
Development of our Faith	3%

*Our school would have been underfunded by **\$299,165** if not for the generous support of the Parish through tuition subsidies to our school parents.*

Total Tuition Subsidies (2010-11) = \$310,000.00

Financial Summary for Our School

School Year	Operating Receipts	Operating Expenses	Excess or Deficit
2008-09	\$1,943,668.40	\$1,945,090.11	(\$1,421.71)
2009-10	\$1,976,334.86	\$1,982,928.07	(\$6,592.31)
2010-11	\$2,087,353.04	\$2,076,517.58	\$10,835.46