

***“All of Us” -#361
-by Fr. Larry***



• ***“What’s the bottom line?”***

In today’s bulletin our Parish Finance Committee presents the Annual Fiscal Report for July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. This report is submitted to the Archdiocese of Chicago.

I appreciate the hard work and commitment of the Finance Committee because they guide, advise and help me manage our \$3.2 million parish operating budget.

I asked Fr. Marcin if he had any courses in Business Administration while he was in the seminary. He smiled and said, “Not really.”

The same was true for me.

This is why pastors often have to rely on parishioners who have a better expertise when it comes to handling and monitoring the flow of finances.

I meet daily with our Parish Business Manager, Mary Beth Rudis, and our Parish Accountant, Denise Duda, who keep me informed about the status of our parish finances. I usually ask them two basic questions, “What’s the bottom line?” and “How are we doing?”

In light of the Annual Report for 2007-2008, I thought it might be good to present some “bottom line” questions that reflect the financial good news of our parish.

Q: When it comes to money, how do things look for our parish?

A: Good. Our parish is financially sound.

Q: How did our Parish Operating Budget do for 2008?

A: Very well. Our Parish Operating Budget ran in the black again.

Q: Has there been an increase in our weekly collections?

A: Yes, our weekly collections currently exceed what we budgeted for this year.

Q: Is our parish in debt?

A: No. You may recall back in 2005, we were able to retire our parish debt of \$680,000. This was one of the goals of the Sharing Christ’s Gifts Capital Campaign that we were able to successfully accomplish in the three years of that capital campaign.

Q: Are we going to stay out of debt?

A: Yes. For the past 3 years, since the end of the 2002-2005 capital campaign, we have been able to gradually increase our parish savings every year.

Q: Are we able to pay all our bills?

A: Yes, and on time.

Q: What are our biggest expenses?

A: Salaries for the parish and school employees make up 61% of the overall expenses. Also, the cost of utilities, like heat, electric and water are on the rise every year.

Q: How did our parish do in regard to the Annual Catholic Appeal?

A: Very well. We exceeded our “parish goal” of \$58,000. The archdiocese gave a \$22,343 rebate back to our parish.

Q: Were there any major capital repairs from July, 2007 to July, 2008?

A: Yes. There was a total renovation of the heating and air conditioning system in the school building. The cost was \$234,382.

Q: Did we need a special capital campaign to pay for this project?

A: No. Because our weekly collections allowed us to pay our bills and save money for this project.

Q: Are there any major capital projects planned for this year?

A: Yes. There are three. The total renovation of the heating and air conditioning system for the church. The installation of a new pipe organ in the church. The tuck-pointing of the rectory.

Q: Will the parish have to take out a loan or have a capital campaign for these three projects?

A: No. Because our weekly contributions continue to allow us to pay our bills, and put aside money for these projects.

Q: What would you like to tell the parishioners?

A: Thank you for your continuous generosity. I appreciate your financial support. You are truly “good stewards” of God’s blessings.

Q: What do you mean by being a “good steward?”

A: As people of faith, we are called to share, serve others and be part of a worshipping community called a parish.

Q: It sounds like there is something spiritual about giving. Is this true?

A: Yes. Christian Stewardship holds that, all that we are, and all that we have, are gifts from God and that we have been truly blessed by God. The offering at Mass is both a sign of our gratitude to God and our commitment to support the life of our parish community.

Q: Are there other ways that our parish is blessed by one’s giving?

A: Yes. St. Cyril’s is blessed by those who give, not only their treasure, but give the gift of their time and talents. This happens when parishioners respond to the call to serve the poor, volunteer in our Parish School or Religious Education Program, or lector, or bring Holy Communion to the home bound.

Q: Are there any other ways?

A: Yes. Through prayer. Prayer is such an important part of our lives that we must make time for it in our daily, busy lives. This is why our gathering to celebrate the Sunday Eucharist is so important in our journey of faith.

Q: So what’s the bottom line?

A: Because of so many generous parishioners, we are able to do so much in return for God. Our sacrificial giving helps us to carry on the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ today. This ultimately is the heart of what we are about as a Catholic community.

Q: Would you say this is good news that comes at a time when things are financially shaky around us?

A: Yes, it is.

Thank you for all that you do, week by week, Sunday by Sunday, to help make our parish strong and vibrant today.

-Fr. Larry

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

The Parish Finance Committee meets on a monthly basis to review overall parish income and expenditures; budget and plan for short and long-term needs; and advise and assist Father Larry relative to financial decisions concerning the parish.

In today's bulletin, you will find our annual parish financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008. The Finance Committee supervised the preparation of this report pursuant to Archdiocesan guidelines.

In past years, the Finance Committee has used the Annual Report to highlight the necessary maintenance and capital improvements we have undertaken. This year's report reflects the payment for the new HVAC system for the school, which will help realize savings in fuel and energy costs. The report also shows payment for the new system without incurring any new debt.

- Sunday offerings (including Christmas and Easter) increased over 2007 and exceeded our budget projections for 2008;
- Our parish auxiliary organizations, i.e. Mothers' Club, Altar and Rosary Society, and Holy Name, have continued to support the parish and school in an exemplary fashion;
- The response of our parishioners to the Cardinal's Annual Appeal exceeded the amount expected by the Archdiocese resulting in \$22,343 being returned to the parish;
- The parish "Beat the Lotto" fundraiser continues to do well;
- The report reflects our parish's ability to furnish religious education for over 1,100 students in our parish school and religious education program.

This annual report also reflects your continuing generosity which has enabled our parish to undertake the following capital improvement projects which will be reflected in the 2009 annual report:

- Installation of a new HVAC system in our church;
- Tuck-pointing and masonry restoration of the rectory; and
- Installation of a new church pipe organ, utilizing digital technology

You will see work beginning on these projects in the near future. It is anticipated that these improvements to our parish facilities will be undertaken and completed without incurring any additional debt to our parish.

The Parish Finance Committee realizes that we would be unable to effectively plan for the future needs of our parish and its ministries without your continuing generosity and support, and it is our hope to be good stewards of the gifts which you have entrusted to our parish.

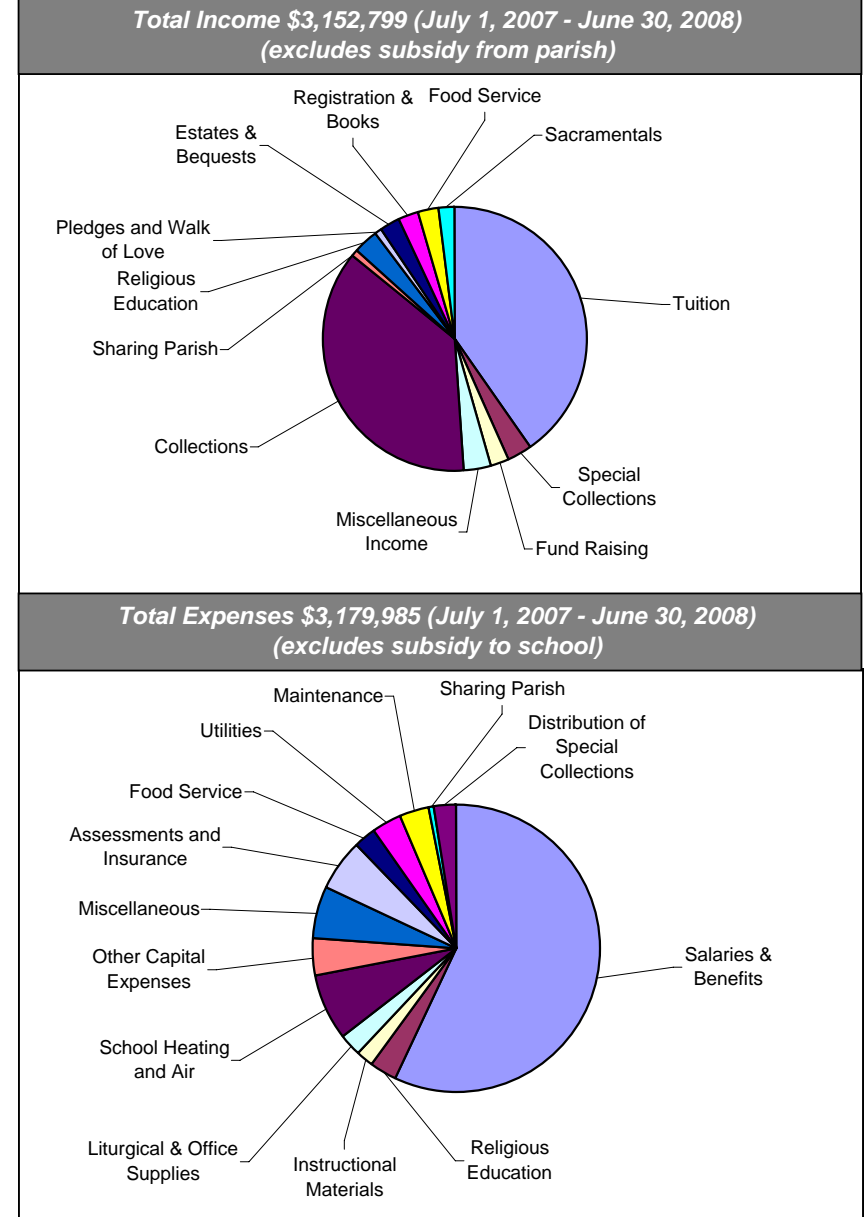
Thankfully, we remain, your Parish Finance Committee,

John Budz
Jim Carmen
Mary Corrigan
Denise Duda
Eugene Hunziker

Fr. Larry Lisowski
Connie Markiewicz
Nick Mokolke
Michael O'Donnell
Mary Beth Rudis

SS. Cyril & Methodius Annual Financial Report Year Ending June 30, 2008

OPERATING ACTIVITY			
Church Income		Church Expenses	
Collections	\$1,167,126	Salaries & Benefits	\$427,891
Religious Education	98,899	Religious Education	98,899
Estates & Bequests	78,770	Dist. of Arch Req'd Collections	79,041
Arch Req'd Collections	70,279	Maintenance	77,028
Sacramentals	59,200	Utilities	48,235
Beat the Lotto	27,209	Subsidy to School	134,260
Sharing Parish	22,207	Assessments & Insurance	177,345
Miscellaneous Income	47,709	Liturgical & Office Supplies	81,627
		Sharing Parish	22,340
		Miscellaneous	98,551
Subtotal	\$1,571,399	Subtotal	\$1,245,217
School Income		School Expenses	
Tuition	\$1,269,634	Salaries & Benefits	\$1,379,765
Registration & Books	72,686	Instructional Materials	65,075
School Lunch Program & Meals	82,979	School Lunch Program & Meals	81,564
Fund Raising	44,522	Maintenance	28,790
Subsidy from Parish	134,260	Utilities	55,501
Other Income	60,239	Other Expenses	90,334
Subtotal	\$1,664,320	Subtotal	\$1,701,029
Total Income - Church & School	\$3,235,719	Total Expenses - Church & School	\$2,946,246
Auxiliary Organizations	\$148,506 ⁽¹⁾		
CAPITAL ACTIVITY			
Capital Income		Capital Expenses	
Donations for capital projects	\$20,842	School Heating and Air	\$234,382
Walk of Love Bricks	8,155	Grotto Renovation (pd by donor)	92,063
Appeal Rebate	22,343	Other Capital Projects	41,554
Total Income - Capital	\$51,340	Total Expenses - Capital	\$367,999
PARISH SUMMARY			
Net Operating - Church	\$326,182		
Net Operating - School	(36,709)		
Net Capital Activity	(316,659)		
Net for Parish Including Capital Activity	(\$27,186)		
Auxiliary Organizations	\$148,506		



⁽¹⁾ Represents initial recording of auxiliary organization cash balances. Aux organizations include Altar & Rosary, Athletics, Helping Hands, Holy Name, Manna, Mothers' Club, Polish Club, School Board

Finance Committee:

Fr. Larry Lisowski, John Budz, Jim Carmen, Mary Corrigan, Denise Duda, Gene Hunziker, Connie Markiewicz, Nick Mokolke, Mike O'Donnell and Mary Beth Rudis