

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARISHIONERS

ST. BARTHOLOMEW PARISH

SEPTEMBER 2009

Every year at this time – in conjunction with Fr. Phil’s State of the Parish Report - we publish a report of the parish financials from the previous fiscal year (2008-2009), the budget for the current fiscal year (2009-2010), and other information which may be of interest to our parishioners.

PARISH UPDATES

As we finalize the negotiations with St. Sebastian’s School it is time to look to the future regarding their and our future physical needs. This fall we will begin a facility-needs evaluation to optimize the future use of our parish buildings. This will be the responsibility of a new building use and renovation committee, a sub-committee of the Buildings and Grounds Commission. Both the rectory and convent are in need of repair and renovation. We hope this study will allow us to redesign our space so that we can not only make educated decisions regarding the space needs of our priests, staff, parish, and programs but will help us determine the most cost effective way of achieving what we need both at the present and in the future. To begin this process we will be having a series of open houses in the fall to discuss potential future uses of the rectory and convent. By spring we hope to be in a position to hire an architect to complete design drawings and a timetable for the renovations, as well as preliminary cost projections.

Our Parish Pastoral Council has just begun working on a new pastoral plan for our parish. This is something that we try to do every five to ten years and is one of the things that keeps us a vibrant and growing community. Having an up-to-date pastoral plan is important as we work to best meet the needs of our parishioners both now and in the future. Your input is very important to us. We hope that everyone in the parish will help us by participating.

The number of parishioners who have signed up for electronic giving to the parish through ParishPay grows every week. We will be talking more about the advantages of this way of giving and will be having an informational session to answer your questions in the fall.

The staff has been busy during the summer working on new programs to be offered in the fall. Bible Study will now be offered on Monday evenings as well as Monday morning. Sunday Supper will offer opportunities for parishioners to gather for companionship, discussion and educational programs. We will be having a day of intergenerational learning to prepare parishioners of all ages for the season of Advent. Melisa Hughes has been busy working on new Youth and Young Adult activities. We have a wonderful singer/storyteller and musician coming in October. This promises to be an evening you won’t want to miss. It should be a treat for the entire family. The Dominican Preachers, Fr. Bob and Fr. Ron, will offer a parish retreat in November. Please take home a copy of the bulletin each week, or check the website www.stbartholomew-needham.org, for up-to-date information and to stay abreast of all the wonderful things happening here at St. Bartholomew.

STAFFING CHANGES

Last spring Sr. Julie and Sr. Brenda made the decision to move out of the convent and now are in residence at the new apartments, Station 250, next to Legacy Place in Dedham. Sr. Julie continues to hold her own as she deals with her health issues. She remains, for all of us, an example of courage and faithfulness to the Lord in the midst of her illness. As her health allows, which has been more infrequent these days, she stays in touch with us and volunteers in the parish. Her love of the parish and her spirit are a source of hope for all of us.

Barbara Dury continues her studies in the Masters in Ministry program at St. John's Seminary. In May she completed the course requirements necessary to apply for certification as a Pastoral Associate. In June she assumed the responsibilities of Pastoral Associate in addition to her responsibilities as Business Manager. Melisa Hughes, Director of Youth Formation and Activities, has assumed Barbara's former responsibilities regarding soccer and basketball.

Fr. John Kuria has returned to Africa after spending the summer with us. We welcome an old friend, Fr. Brian Cronin, who will be in residence while he resumes his studies at BC.

Sincerely in Christ,



Rev. Philip E. McGaugh, Pastor

PARISH FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 & BUDGET FOR 2009-2010

It gives us great pleasure to report to you on the financial condition of our parish, and the Operating Results for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009. The parish continues to be in sound financial condition, even in these challenging economic times. This is due to your continued generous support as well as the disciplined stewardship and extraordinary efforts of our management team lead by Father McGaugh and Barbara Dury.

Despite the fact that our budget anticipated a break even year for fiscal 2009, we actually had net revenue of \$64,000. This was due to unusual developments on both the revenue and expense side of the budget, developments that we should not plan on in future years, but which combined to produce these unexpected, yet favorable, results. On the revenue side our receipts were nearly \$44,000 over budget, despite the fact that the Offertory and Grand Annual collections were about \$12,000 below budget on a combined basis. The non-recurring revenue increase was primarily attributable to an extremely generous bequest which the parish received upon the passing of a loyal parishioner. On the expense side, our total expenses were some \$20,000 below budget, due primarily to reduced expenses for clerical and religious stipends, reflecting both the absence of Sr. Julie's services and the fact that we did not have the benefit of a visiting priest, for whom we had budgeted. Both of these conditions created tremendous demands on Father McGaugh and the staff, demands that we should not budget for in the future. The detailed financial statements, as filed with the Archdiocese, can be found on the parish web site at www.stbartholomew-needham.org. The results are summarized below, comparing last year's results to this year's and including a summary of the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010. Following this table

is a five year overview of the parish, documenting the primary trends that continue to drive our finances.

Fiscal Year Ended	Jun-08 Actual	Jun-09 Actual	Jun-10 Budget
Revenue (000 omitted)			
Offertory	229	289	290
Grand Annual	78	73	75
* Rent	37	36	34
Interest	28	30	28
Rel. Ed.	14	15	15
Other	29	78	32
Total	478	521	478
Expense			
Staffing			
Lay	186	203	208
Clerical	84	55	73
Facility Rectory	75	73	74
Office	35	37	36
Programs	35	44	53
Archdiocesan School Tax	17	19	18
Other	13	26	16
Total	453	457	478

* The decrease in rent is due to a decrease in the rental income for the convent, not a decrease in the rent paid by St. Sebastian's School

5 Year Summary

(000 omitted)		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Revenue						
Offertory		\$271	\$275	\$277	\$292	\$289
Grand Annual		\$51	\$60	\$69	\$78	\$73
Other		\$152	\$103	\$109	\$108	\$159
Total		\$474	\$438	\$455	\$478	\$521
Expenses						
Staffing		\$174	\$199	\$217	\$270	\$258
Other		\$267	\$239	\$218	\$183	\$199
Total		\$441	\$438	\$435	\$453	\$457
Increase in Fund Balance		\$33	\$0	\$20	\$25	\$64

As can be seen from the summary above, following a break even year in fiscal '06, we have had three successive years of positive net revenue. While this may be regarded as a welcome trend, we do want to assure the parish body that it is not the intent of the Finance Committee or the management team of the parish to achieve material amounts of net revenue on an annual basis. Instead, our goal is to maximize the programs that can be offered by our parish under a balanced budget that contains a modest provision for contingencies. As pointed out at the outset of this letter, there were a number of one-time events this past year, both on the revenue and expense side that had a combined positive impact of approximately \$70,000. But for these events, we would have had a slight operating loss. The budget that has been approved for the current fiscal year is again a balanced budget. Because we planned for a continuation of difficult economic conditions, we were able to achieve this only by adopting austere measures at the program and compensation levels. We will maintain a close watch on our actual experience and, if possible, will relax those measures.

As you are aware, a sub-committee of the parish has been in discussions with the Archdiocese and St Sebastian's regarding the latter's plans for a needed expansion of their facility. It would involve the addition of a building in the area of the soccer field. There are two important points that you should understand about these discussions. The first is that both the Archdiocese and St. Sebastian's have expressed strong support for the continued operation of our parish on our present site. Secondly, while the final details remain to be established, it is anticipated that St. Bartholomew's will receive a payment from St. Sebastian's in an amount that we believe to be appropriate. The resolution of this issue will provide the basis for both institutions, St. Bartholomew's and St. Sebastian's, to continue their important roles in our community.

The future success of our parish, as always, will depend on the combination of a dedicated management team and an active parish body, both in terms of financial support and as volunteers for the many parish programs. Simply stated, our parish will be what we make it. Please continue your support, particularly with respect to the Offertory and Grand Annual collections. We urge all parishioners to consider using the new electronic contribution option.

We are confident that the spirit that has made St. Bartholomew's a vibrant parish for over 50 years, will continue to inspire you, the parishioners of St. Bartholomew's, to maintain your support for this year and the years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

St. Bartholomew Finance Council

Dick Reilly, Paul Bacigalupo, Ed Ellison, Tom Keating Roy Kelley, Bob McLaughlin, Paul O'Connor, John Zajonc