



Dear Parishioners of the Family of the Most Holy Eucharist,

Please read and absorb the enclosed Financial Summary Report for the first half of our fiscal year, July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Each parish's Finance Committee received and discussed a more detailed report per parish at our recent Finance meeting. Finance Committees then provide input to guide the respective parish into the future. Thanks to all of you who have given your time and talents toward this ministry.

In the Financial Summary Report, you will see a few areas that stick out.

1. Facilities expenses have always been a large percentage, and they have increased.
2. Staffing continues to be our largest expense.
3. Some donations have rebounded; some have not.
4. Bequests have boosted some parishes.

Let's discuss these points:

**Buildings and Grounds** is changing the mindset from reactionary to planning ahead. The first step was to replace a retiring Business Manager with a Director of Facilities to concentrate on the big picture and the future. One major focus was to get neglected areas up to speed while adding preventive plans. These had initial outlays plus ongoing costs, but long term is more stable.

#### **Staffing Update**

I would like to have given you even more information in this report, but our staff is stretched very thin at this time. We are spending a lot of time training new staff, mostly due to retirements. Retraining tenured staff at the same time leads us toward consistencies for better productivity and best practices. Most of us have seen restructuring in our careers or at a business we patronize. Implementing a new, more efficient staffing model actually takes more time initially. We are in the middle, very bumpy stage, which is to be expected. The fruits of this reorganization for our Family of Parishes are just starting to come to fruition. Please bear with our staff while we move in this forward-thinking direction.

In addition to the above factors, our Pastor is working long hours. Yet he still does not have the chance to spend an appropriate amount of time with parishioners or staff. The lack of time with staff then makes the staff even more inefficient, stretching staff further.

The Family Parish Staff would like to remind parishioners that enormous time savings and efficiencies will be garnered by centralizing into one Central Parish Office. Staff time is money. Our Pastor will save much time in lieu of running from parish to parish to meet with staff. There are so many process improvement opportunities that staff plans to seize. We note these opportunities in nearly every planning or training meeting. Plus, communications internally will naturally increase, creating a more cohesive (therefore more productive) staff. With better internal communications comes more fluid, better planned external communications. The increased efficiency boosts efforts toward our mission of learning about Jesus, sharing Jesus and living the way Jesus asks us to.

#### **Looking to the Future**

While discussing staff efficiency, we would be remiss if we didn't raise the important topic of a decades-long decline in volunteering. As volunteer hours have been reduced, more responsibilities have been put on staff or fallen by the wayside. Over the same period of time, staff has been reduced. Many staff positions were combined

at all 5 of our parishes. This combination of duties has stretched staff thin. Yet, most parishioners expect all activities and functions to continue as they have been.

### **How do we reverse this trend?**

**Volunteer.** Our Catholic parish is a volunteer organization, and Jesus calls us to fulfill that mission. Let's get back to serving each other. Plus, more volunteer hours means less staff hours, saving money.

- **Please consider volunteering in a parish function of your interest. Reach out to the Central Parish Office to join in.**

**Donate.** Our parishes require your donations to meet a myriad of expenses for everyday operations of each parish. Your donation not only helps today, but it establishes reserves that will keep our parishes viable for years and decades to come. Do it for your children.

- You will notice in the enclosed report that donations have not increased to meet our expenses.
- **Please consider increasing your weekly donation by 10%.  
If you currently don't give regularly, please consider \$5 per week.**
- **Please give through recurring online giving. Go to your parish website and click on "Donate" or "Online Giving". If you need help, please call the Central Parish Office.**
  - The efficiencies of Online Giving save the parishes an enormous amount of time. Again, staff time is an expense to the parish. These efficiencies have proved to more than outweigh any fees involved.
  - Plus, recurring online giving allows Finance to budget with more accuracy.
  - Financial staff are currently evaluating more user-friendly online giving platforms. We will report back with improvements in this area.

**Add your parish to your will.** As you will see in the enclosed report, we have received quite a few bequests, some of them sizable. These bequests help pad our reserves to be used at a down period for the parish. Again, these reserves will keep our parishes serving our communities well into the future.

**Please review your will today, adding your parish.**

Thank you for your time reading and understanding the financial aspects of our parishes. Operations of our parishes are complicated, so the more you know the more you can help our parishes thrive.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jeff Rinear*

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Director of Administration (Finance, Accounting, Human Resources and Technology)