

This weekend we are presenting the Annual Report that reviews last fiscal year's financials. We are blessed to have members of our Finance Council, dedicated parishioners that many of you know, help prepare and present the report to the parish at this weekend's Masses. The report is both positive and challenging to us as a parish.

You will see significant capital gains from the sale of properties and bequests, extraordinary income was considerable. However, it must be noted that the regular operating costs of both the church and school ran at significant deficits. In the short term we are using our capital (and gains when applicable) to help cover these deficits but obviously that is not a viable model for long. I assure you that we are always looking for ways to reduce expenses while not reducing the level of ministry, education, and service that we all reasonably expect.

You will see from the completed and future project list that the proceeds from the sales of the St. Cornelius and St. Thecla properties (as well as large bequests) should be used to build up the infrastructure, renovate/beautify the interior of the buildings, and in time be used to endow key mission centered needs.

So now I think it is time, in the third year of the merger, to make some "asks" of all of you. I ask you to pray, invite, and give.

1. Will you pray for deeper faith and conversion to Christ for yourself and the people in this parish boundary? The most important "currency" that the Church wants, that Christ wants, is our faith and love...He wants us! We cannot give what we do not have. Will you ask the Lord for a deeper faith, and that hearts be softened to God's will?
2. People need the love and peace that only Jesus brings, will you invite a family member, friend, or neighbor to come to Mass with you? We have a good school and religious education program, have you encouraged/reminded those with children to be formed in the faith and to receive the sacraments?
3. Give: For those that already give sacrificially, thank you and may God bless you. St. Paul was shameless in asking for money for the sake of the mission of preaching the Gospel and calling people to faith in Jesus Christ. Could you increase your offering by 10% or by about \$30 per month as your means allow? Every dollar makes a difference and will help.

God doesn't need our money or possessions. He is omnipotent, it is because of Him that we have all our gifts. But the Lord does call us to use our precious resources wisely for our own and other's salvation. That is why it is a precept of the Church to "provide for the needs of the Church," each according to his own ability, because the parish exists to help us to become saints through Christ's saving teachings, grace, and good works.

We are in a pivotal moment of history, the Lord is with us, let us stay with Him and solidly plant the flag of the Catholic faith, the fullness of the faith in Jesus Christ, right here at St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish. ***Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.***

God bless you all,

Fr. Mike Grisolano