

Companions on the Journey

September 15, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today is Stewardship Sunday and there will be members of the Parish commission on Stewardship and Advancement speaking after Communion at all the Masses this weekend. Their topic is not the financial aspects of stewardship but the overall concept of being a good steward of whatever we have and whatever we have been given in life. Being a good steward is something that Jesus himself spoke of with some regularity in his message. What is our best use of all that we have been entrusted with.

In addition to that theme of stewardship I have included a sheet on the parish financials that cover the past two years. We had our quarterly meeting of the Parish Finance Committee and the members signed off on the financials and the Archdiocese has access to our financials via The Cloud.

The year before last we ended up with a shortfall for the year totaling just over \$20,000. The parish is a \$1.5 million a year operation. Sometimes more.

You will see that the parish finished this past year in the black with a surplus of \$69,000. That is the good news. On the other hand the reason we finished in the black with this surplus is because we received two bequests from the wills of parishioners who recently died. The bequests totaled \$137,000. These are a blessing upon us and truly enabled us to pay all our bills and continue to offer full parish ministries. If we had not received those bequests we would have had a shortfall in excess of \$70,000.

You will see that it is not easy simply to compare the expenses for the past two years because the rectory/Church Offices numbers have to be split out into Parish Center and rectory numbers. That sounds easy but with regard to utilities such as electricity and portions of snow removal and landscaping and security and insurances it is not always an easy thing to divide certain bills with the appropriate proportionality. We are doing our best and next year should be a cleaner and more accurate presentation especially on the expense side of things.

You will notice that there is a discrepancy between Jubilee revenue and expenses. The reason is that the revenue for the Jubilee fund comes in during April, May, June and then into the summer months. It covers parts of two fiscal years and so has to be recorded part in last year and part in the present year. On the payout side of the Jubilee we had Jubilee funded projects in the summer for the previous year and in the fall for the year we just concluded. That means that the expenses seemed to be more than the income. The reason is that the expenditures represent part of two different Jubilee Fund sets of projects. I hope that helps to explain.

Please know how grateful I am to all of you for your financial support. We are here to serve you but could not do that without you. Later on this fall we will be reaching out to you to ask you to increase your Sunday support of the parish so we can stay on an even keel, pay down our mortgage which is now under \$1.4 million from \$3.215 million when we started back in 2006.

In the Peace of Christ,

Msgr. McHenry