

9 November 2015

Dear Holy Family Parishioners:

As the church's liturgical year closes, we find ourselves completing a journey of focused discipleship with the Gospel of Mark. In that Gospel, Jesus often uses examples from the material world as a measure of the strength of our discipleship (e.g., the "rich young man," "the poor widow," "the feeding of the five thousand," among others).

As part of our collective parish discipleship, we have no less a responsibility to be good and generous stewards. And so the enclosed summary of our financial health gives us pause for the kind of reflection and further action we would employ in examining our personal lives.

The fiscal year that ended June 30, 2015 was actually the first full fiscal year for Holy Family Parish. Our parish Finance Council spent considerable time and effort in ascertaining the financial situation of the new parish from the three consolidated former parishes, overcoming a number of obstacles therein. It was determined that Holy Family was operating at an annual deficit of approximately \$200,000.

Corrective action was needed, and taken. During this past financial year, we had much communication with the diocese, and finally an official meeting in the spring with the Bishop and his College of Consultors to share our situation and to ask for assistance. Happily, the diocese agreed to forgive our 2014 assessments and to provide some relief for future assessments. As a result, we were able to reduce last year's deficit to approximately \$75,000, as you can see on the reverse side.

We still have much to do, and the dynamism of urban ministry gives us no pause for complacency. The Finance Council has begun working on initiatives to help realize a balanced budget within two fiscal years, examining every line item to see what can be done to reduce expenses. Reflected in next year's report will be the savings already gained by changes in the music ministry, liturgy schedule, contracted services and energy costs.

We were given permission to sell the former St. Joseph parish rectory, and to retain 100% of the proceeds, which will be used to help fund much-needed capital projects and to help close the deficit over the next couple of years.

We would like to launch ministries that can also raise funds for the parish, as well as we'd like more viable fund-raisers themselves. One such venture, the teen-based Theophany Center retreat ministry, just opened last month, and we are already getting inquiries from other parishes for our services.

We have an excellent, committed set of leaders on our Finance Council deserving of our deepest gratitude. I'm confident this group can keep our stewardship on sound footing for years to come. I'm also very appreciative for you who have faithfully weathered the organizational storm of the last few years in the development of Holy Family Parish. I continue to ask for your prayerful good works to now stabilize the good work that has begun here, as Pope Francis' vision in action.

Peace in the Lord Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph", written in a cursive style.