

NEW SPIRIT

I will put within you. Ez. 36:26a



Finally – The Big Picture

The above is a long preamble to getting to the “big picture”. Our Operations being sound and with sufficient “rainy day” funds, the Parish needs to look to the future.

We are concerned with the overall state of our buildings and plan to have an expert engineering analysis conducted of the key systems (building envelope, HVAC, mechanical and electrical). Evidence of potential issues are noticeable (cracks in mortar/stone, flaking and bubbling of paint/walls, etc.). We also know some systems are at or beyond their expected life expectancy (church boiler). We believe the best approach is to conduct a complete study of all systems identifying the needs and helping us set priorities. The Building and Capital Planning Working Group have begun to work on this with the expectation it will be completed by the end of 2019.

To pay for what we believe may be needed, we will need to raise funds as our existing Capital Assets Reserve is not enough. So while the Building team is working on identifying the need, the Sources of Revenue Working Group will begin the work of identifying where to find the funds and how to engage the Parish in helping to raise the funds (this does not necessarily mean more of our individual money, rather some of our time and energy seeking revenues – more rentals, seeking grant opportunities, participating in activities like the “Harvest Fair”, etc.)

We were very fortunate several years ago when we received a bequest of \$800,000. This has been a huge boon providing the capital to complete several major projects that were urgently needed and allowing almost all of our Parishioner donations to go toward operations and programs. The balance between supporting our fantastic programs and maintaining a safe and welcoming building is an on-going discussion in which we all need to participate.

The Finance Committee will continue to keep you abreast of its activities, our financial status and seek your thoughts and ideas. To that end, we have created an email address where you may contact us:

pfc@st-josephs.ca

Please stay tuned.

Greg Forestell, Treasurer

The Church is holy and sinful, spotless and tainted. The Church is the bride of Christ, who washed her in cleansing water and took her to himself "with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless" (Ephesians 5:26-27). The Church too is a group of sinful, confused, anguished people constantly tempted by the powers of lust and greed and always entangled in rivalry and competition.

When we say that the Church is a body, we refer not only to the holy and faultless body made Christ-like through baptism and Eucharist but also to the broken bodies of all the people who are its members. Only when we keep both these ways of thinking and speaking together can we live in the Church as true followers of Jesus.

Over the centuries the Church has done enough to make any critical person want to leave it. Its history of violent crusades, pogroms, power struggles, oppression, excommunications, executions, manipulation of people and ideas, and constantly recurring divisions is there for everyone to see and be appalled by.

Can we believe that this is the same Church that carries in its center the Word of God and the sacraments of God's healing love? Can we trust that in the midst of all its human brokenness the Church presents the broken body of Christ to the world as food for eternal life? Can we acknowledge that where sin is abundant grace is superabundant, and that where promises are broken over and again God's promise stands unshaken? To believe is to answer yes to these questions.

As Jesus was one human person among many, the Church is one organization among many. And just as there may have been people with more attractive appearances than Jesus, there may be many organizations that are a lot better run than the Church. But Jesus is the Christ appearing among us to reveal God's love, and the Church is his people called together to make his presence visible in today's world.

The Church is a very human organization but also the garden of God's grace. It is a place where great sanctity keeps blooming. Saints are people who make the living Christ visible to us in a special way. Some saints have given their lives in the service of Christ and his Church; others have spoken and written words that keep nurturing us; some have lived heroically in difficult situations; others have remained hidden in quiet lives of prayer and meditation; some were prophetic voices calling for renewal; others were spiritual strategists setting up large organizations or networks of people; some were healthy and strong; others were quite sick, and often anxious and insecure. *Henri Nouwen*

DID YOU KNOW?

In the Pastoral Planning Survey, there were comments, questions, suggestions that indicated that people were unaware of some aspects of life in our parish. It became clear that more communication is needed on many topics.

The purpose of this column, which will become a regular feature of “New Spirit” is to enhance communication and provide information. Responses to two comments regarding communion:

“NEED A GLUTEN FREE OPTION”

If you need a gluten free option, you have two choices:

- 1) We provide the option of gluten free wafers. If you wish to receive communion in this form, you are invited to gather with the communion ministers behind the altar during the ‘Lamb of God’ and inform the ministers that you wish to have a gluten free host. You will receive communion with the ministers, using a gluten free host.
- 2) If you don't wish to use the gluten free host, you are welcome to receive communion from the cup only, thus avoiding the issue of gluten.

“NO WAFERS/NO BREAD”

Comments went with both options—using bread only or wafers only. There has been a long tradition in the parish of using bread baked by parishioners for communion. Some people have difficulty with the bread and prefer wafers. All communion ministers have both bread and wafers in their communion bowls and every communicant has an option. If you need or have a preference for the wafer, please ask for a wafer instead of the bread when you come for communion. The minister will gladly give you communion in that form.

A suggestion was made to have a “MARKETPLACE FOR MINISTRIES”.

Parish Pastoral Council is planning to hold a Marketplace for Ministries in mid-February. The plan is to have all parish ministries to have a table or display about their ministry, with members of that ministry present to answer questions, explain their ministry and (hopefully) to sign up new members of the ministry. Keep your eyes on the bulletin and newsletter for information about this upcoming parish event. If you are the leader of a ministry, now is the time to start thinking of what you might prepare for this event and to get volunteers from you ministry to be present that day. It is another opportunity for us to learn more about our parish and to get to know one another.

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MONEY, MONEY, MONEY—HOW ARE WE DOING?

My Treasurer's update is a little later this year. The Table below includes the first three quarters of the year and shows we are basically on track to finish the year with balanced Operations, as some of the funds raised at the Supper Table 40th anniversary were not recognizable before the end of the 3rd quarter.

	Parish Total (includes Supper Table & Women's Centre)	Supper Table	Women's Centre	2018 – Q3	2018 Budget
REVENUE					
COLLECTION	261,764	7,031		67%	388,000
FACILITY	236,554			79%	300,000
FUNDRAISING & DONATIONS	152,716	35,333	41,947	59%	257,000
GRANTS/ AGREEMENT	294,494	30,000	264,494	80%	368,000
OTHER FUNDING	19,878			142%	14,000
TOTAL REVENUE	965,406	72,364	306,441	73%	1,327,000
EXPENSE					
SALARIES & BENEFITS	601,628	58,314	216,245	79%	766,200
OPERATING COSTS	371,735	40,907	73,247	67%	554,000
TOTAL EXPENSE	973,363	99,221	289,492	74%	1,320,200
NET INCOME	(7,956)	(26,857)	16,949		6,800

Last year I explained from where our Operating funds are derived and how we spend them. As our Operations are in a relatively good place and continue to be balanced, I think it is important to discuss what Parish Finance Committee is doing and look at the big picture.

So what has the Finance Committee been doing this past year?

There were three key initiatives of the past year:

Completion of Policy review – this project, begun the previous year was completed last Spring with Parish Pastoral Council approval of all updated Finance policies.

Updated Investment management strategy – historically our Parish has been very conservative with our investments (only GICs). The Finance Committee worked through a process of investigating how to improve investment performance while maintaining funds security. We found that by pooling our investments under the umbrella of a larger organization we could have access to a wider variety of investment instruments with lower costs and potential for improved performance with our conservative approach. The result was an agreement to pool our investments with the same manager as OMI Lacombe. We retain autonomy and control of our investments. We fully believe that while maintaining our conservative approach we will improve our investment earnings from the present 1% range and provide more income for the parish.

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY—HOW ARE WE DOING? (continued)

Establishment of Working Groups within the Finance Committee – having focused the past several years on improving our Operational performance (a string of years with balanced or small surpluses), now confident we can maintain this performance and having completed some major capital repairs (Roof, Boiler), it is time to look ahead. We anticipate both the Church and Rectory require additional, significant repairs. We also believe we have almost maximized our existing revenue sources. With that in mind we created the following Working Groups

The Building and Capital Planning Working Group will:

- Work with Parish Maintenance Manager to identify the needs, options and priorities of the building and property. A thorough assessment of the building and property, along with reports from various outside bodies, should identify major needs for repairs.
- Prepare and submit to Parish Finance Committee an annual summary and plan for property and building needs, including cost estimates.
- Work with Staff in identifying and presenting to PFC emergency need for repairs or upgrades.
- Periodically (approximately every 10 years) contract an Engineering firm to conduct a complete systems review of our physical assets.

The Sources of Revenue Working Group will:

- On an ongoing basis, and in consultation and coordination with the Executive Director and Program Management representatives, ensure that all available funding sources are identified, pursued and secured as successfully as possible; and to make quarterly reports to the Finance Committee on the Group's activities. The target of these activities is the funding of the operations of the Supper Table and meeting Capital Projects expenses.
- Scope of sources of revenue is to explore funding areas such as: Special & routine government programs, Corporate donations/sponsorships (monetary or in-kind), Capital campaigns, Seasonal campaigns, Others as identified by the group.

The Financial Analytics Working Group will:

- Undertake time-bound individual projects analysing the financial position of the Parish and its ability to support its capital expenditure plan, outreach programs and the work of ministries and specific initiatives.
- It may also make recommendations on how financial reporting can support initiatives that St. Joseph's undertakes with other partners. Accurate and timely reports to funders that reflect the full costs of executing activities can help in enabling partnerships.

This Year Finance Committee is focused on?

The key initiatives for Finance Committee this year are:

- Orienting our new members – there are four new members on PFC this year (Roslyn Brown (PPC Chair), John Mark Keyes, Nancy Keyes, Paolo Siraco) working with our 4 returning members (Fr Richard, Greg Forestell, Marcus Hewitt and Chris Adam).
- Establishing the Working Groups and their membership, as well as confirming initial objectives of each
- Completing the implementation of a new financial reporting structure (we described last year)
- Renew/Update the relationship with our existing Auditor or a new one (this is a normal practice after 5 years with the same auditor)