

September 2026

Dear Parishioners,

Here is the next installment to help you understand the budget for our parishes. Hopefully, this will help you better understand where your parish stands financially and recognize that there are different aspects of parish income. The archbishop uses regular Sunday giving to determine what to ask for in his annual appeal, as well as the regular tax assessed to each parish. This tax helps pay for all that the archdiocesan offices need to accomplish. Other income includes the Christmas, Easter, and Holy Day collections. It can also include income from fundraisers. Some of you don't need any reminders that those fundraisers depend on a great deal of volunteer labor to be successful. Please keep that in mind as you are asked to help. Another important aspect of the financial health of a parish is savings. Because of the generosity of parishioners who have left part of their estates to their parish, some parishes have received additional financial help in special ways. With this help, some endowments have been established. The interest earned from these endowments can help support the finances of a parish over the long term. Others have designated their gifts for specific purposes, such as a building fund. We are all encouraged to use wisely the gifts we receive in this life. That is what Jesus calls us to do as good stewards in his parables.

I'd like to add one clarification to my last letter regarding clergy expenses. Looking back at those numbers was a momentary shock. Working for God is interesting. During my first years of priesthood under Archbishop Sheehan, we were paid almost poverty-level wages. His philosophy was to keep our wages very low to help us understand that we were working for God. The line from the Sermon on the Mount was our motto: "Rejoice and be glad, your reward will be great in heaven" (Mt. 5:12). Over the next couple of decades, the mentality surrounding priestly salaries changed, and priests' wages increased. One of the changes that everyone has experienced is the rising cost of health care. I don't know if you have noticed, but our clergy is aging. More of us are closer to retirement or beyond than are young priests. Since our health insurance is part of a group policy covering the archdiocesan priests, the cost of that insurance is high. Those of you with health issues know that insurance doesn't cover all the expenses that come with medical care. For this reason, recent archbishops have agreed to raise our salaries even more. The hours we work and the fact that we are on call all the time can still drive some priests crazy. I always try to refer them to parents. The hours you put in as a parent aren't all reimbursed! But the reality is that we are called upon to do far more things than the priests I knew when I was growing up. I remember that those priests seemed to have plenty of time for hunting and fishing.

Another part of clergy expenses is the cost of retirement. Being single means that we usually don't have the same backup options that families have when we get older. Part of the retirement money you pay each month for each priest goes into a pension fund. We also receive mileage reimbursement. Out here, with eight parishes, this is a significant expense. I drive an average of 100 miles per day, most of which are for parish business. That mileage can cost up to \$25,000 per priest each year. Some parishes have purchased a car for clergy use. As I mentioned, the priest from India will be using a vehicle owned by St Johns Petersburg. This is only an overall savings if the priest does not need to have another vehicle for his personal use. I'll let you figure out why that is the case.

The reality is that diocesan priests don't take a vow of poverty. Our salaries are sufficient to take care of most of our needs. For some of us it is enough so we can be generous to worthwhile causes. For me personally, I feel very blessed, so I try to live a very inexpensive lifestyle and give back to God in as many ways as possible.

Last year, you received a basic report showing how each parish’s contributions and expenses ended up for the 2024–25 fiscal year. With this letter, I am showing you how the income from each site compares with the costs I outlined for you last month.

You will also get an idea of how important our fundraisers are, which is why I have tried to emphasize how critical it is for everyone to be willing to volunteer. These charts are for the 2025–26 fiscal year. The gap, whether positive or negative, is what we need to address. For some parishes, a deficit has cut into savings, while other parishes do not have that kind of financial buffer. You may also notice that some fundraiser proceeds do not go toward operational expenses but instead benefit individual church groups. Those groups sometimes pay for expenses that the parish would otherwise have to cover, which is certainly helpful. However, we may need to consider in the future having a portion of the proceeds from each fundraiser go toward parish operations to help strengthen the overall financial picture. Please note that, when reviewing these numbers, there may have been a deficit carried over from fiscal year 2024–2025 before the new fiscal year began on July 1, 2025.

Notice that the expense categories of AAF Tax, Insurance, PJ Assessment, Utilities, Lay Salary, and Clergy Salary line up with what I presented in my last letter.

** Information above the shaded lines was given in previous letter

SBR	Income		Expenses	
Sunday Giving	\$52,066		AAF Tax	\$6,457.11
			Insurance	\$11,632
Insurance	\$1,100		PJ Assessment	\$40,000
Maintenance	\$800		Utilities	\$14,211.87
Utilities	\$2070		Lay Salary	\$35,096
Building Fund (Including Hall Rent, Rectory Donations, HVAC & Furnace Donations)	\$25,977.00		Clergy Salary	\$27,882.28
Christmas	\$10,456.77			
God’s Portion	\$9,437.55		Maintenance Repairs- Supplies, Custodial	\$13,075.23
Easter	\$6,719.25		Liturgy	\$6,423.07
Holy Days	\$505.75		Office Supplies, Computer Subscriptions, Postage	\$2,772.72
Fundraisers (Profit is Christian Mothers)			Admin – Meetings, travel, fees, taxes, donations	\$2,949.43
Other (Interest, Memorials)	\$18,259.58			
Total of Other Collections to assist with Operations	\$75,325.90		Total of Other Expense (Excluding AAF, Insurance, PJ Assessment, Utilities, and Salaries	\$25,220.45
Total Giving	\$127,391.90		Total Expenses	\$160,499.71

Withdrew \$24,890 in June 2026 from St. Bonaventure’s Deposit & Loan Program to assist in covering expenses
Capital Expenses \$20,325 (New well) (Christian Mothers Donated \$5,325 towards Well project)
Deficit - \$8,217.81

SJP	Income		Expenses	
Sunday Giving	\$78,226		AAF Tax	\$7,908
			Insurance	\$23,731
Insurance	\$2,460		PJ Assessment	\$40,000
Maintenance	\$200		Utilities	\$33,331
Utilities	\$3,515		Lay Salary	50,981
Building Fund (Including Hall Rent)	\$9,930		Clergy Salary	\$27,882
Christmas	\$20,218			
God's Portion	\$3,720		Maintenance Repairs- Supplies	\$15,647.44
Easter	\$12,080.55		Liturgy	\$8,879.65
Holy Days	\$2,333.01		Office Supplies, Computer Subscriptions, Postage	\$5,309.75
Fundraisers	\$38,913.62		Admin – Meetings, travel, fees, taxes, donations	\$5,159.36
Other (Grant, Interest, Memorial)	\$3,774			
Total of Other Collections to assist with Operations	\$97,144.18		Total of Other Expense (Excluding AAF, Insurance, PJ Assessment, Utilities, and Salaries	\$34,996.20
Total Giving	\$175,370.18		Total Expenses	\$218,829.20

Capital Expenses \$30,858 (handicap doors at Werner Hall, HVAC maintenance and updates at Church and Werner Hall) (Building/Campus Fund savings and donations specifically for the handicap doors were used to cover the Capital Expenses)

Deficit - \$43,459.02

SBE			Expenses	
Sunday Giving	\$185,460		AAF Tax	\$25,888.87
			Insurance	\$25,589
Insurance	\$16,540		PJ Assessment	\$370,000
Maintenance	\$1,950		Utilities	\$38,683.80
Utilities	\$6,455		Lay Salary	\$76,810.83
Building Fund	\$1,670		Clergy Salary	\$56,219.72
Christmas	\$55,155			
God's Portion	\$30,605		Maintenance Repairs- Supplies, Mowing, Custodial	\$15,086.18
Easter	\$18,589.87		Liturgy	\$14,730.49
Holy Days	\$12,712.25		Office Supplies, Computer Subscriptions, Postage	\$10,704.63
Fundraisers	\$70,671.08		Admin – Meetings, travel, fees, taxes, donations	\$6,053.22
Other (Rent, Grant/Rebate, Interest)	\$14,975.90			
Endowment Disbursement	\$158,500			
Total of Other Collections to assist with Operations (Excluding Sunday Giving)	\$387,824.10		Total of Other Expense (Excluding AAF, Insurance, PJ Assessment, Utilities, and Salaries	\$46,574.52
Total Giving	\$573,284.10		Total Expenses	\$639,766.74

***Endowment disbursements (3) 7/8/25 \$50,000, 11/14/25 \$66,500, 6/16/26 \$42,000 totaling \$158,500
This notation is to give you an idea of how some of the parishes have been able to keep going. There will be more on how each parish stands with endowments and savings.***

Capital Expenses - \$18,632 (parking lot and concrete work around church)

Deficit - \$66,482.64

ANN	Income		Expenses	
Sunday Giving	\$368,220		AAF Tax	\$41,301.68
			Insurance	\$33,650
Insurance	\$2,305		PJ Assessment	\$150,000
Maintenance	\$1,040		Utilities	\$65,862.16
Utilities	\$8,015		Lay Salary	\$169,708
Christmas	\$37,565		Clergy Salary	\$109,751.81
God's Portion	\$10,990			
Easter	\$24,298		Maintenance Repairs- Supplies, Mowing, Custodial	\$32,257.34
School Support	\$7,181		Liturgy	\$21,731.65
Holy Days	\$6,829		Office Supplies, Computer Subscriptions, Postage	\$13,048.12
Fundraisers	\$7,000		Admin – Meetings, travel, fees, taxes, donations	\$7,809.40
Total of Other Collections to assist with Operations (Excluding Sunday Giving)	\$105,223		Total of Other Expense (Excluding AAF, Insurance, PJ Assessment, Utilities, and Salaries	\$74,846.51
Total Giving	\$473,443		Total Expenses	\$645,120.16

Capital Expenses –

SJD - \$18,245 (stones, lettering, concrete work) (Expenses were paid for by the St. Patrick Cemetery Account)
 OLT - \$102,446 (\$3,300 for vinyl fence was paid for by St. Mary Cemetery Account) (\$99,146 for stained glass windows and mini split and dehumidifier, expenses were paid for with a withdrawal from D&L Parish Account)
 SFN - \$3,750 (build and finish cabinet doors for Sacristy) (Expense paid for with campus account)
 SPE - \$8,800 (AC condensing Unit, paint exterior of Rectory) (Expenses were paid for by campus account, SPE
 Christian Mothers donated \$4867.70 to campus account to assist)

To assist in covering the deficit for 2025–2026 expenses, each campus contributed toward the invoices due, based on its percentage of the total number of parishioners. This process was discussed in our previous letter.

The combined amount contributed by all campuses was \$158,908.35. These funds were used to help cover a portion of the overall expenses incurred during the 2025–2026 fiscal year. The amount contributed by each campus is listed below:

OLT - \$37,874.95

SFN - \$54,330.20

SJD - \$18,249.30

STC - \$29,492.10 (Borrowed \$16,500 from OLT. As of 9/27/2026, STC has paid OLT back with interest for a total of \$16,644.39)

SPE - \$18,961.80 (Borrowed \$20,000 from OLT in November 2025, amount due as of this letter including interest \$20,583.30)

Deficit - \$12,768.81

ANN	Total from each campus plus non envelope donations		OLT	SFN	STC	SPE	SJD
Insurance	\$2,305		\$345	\$235	\$340	\$890	\$470
Maintenance	\$1,040			\$50		\$450	\$340
Utilities	\$8,015		\$990	\$1,890	\$1,055	\$1,860	\$1,900
Building Fund (Used for specific campus use, includes hall rent, rectory donation and donations for building use)			\$2,285	\$3,700	\$1,845	\$9,450	\$7,025
Christmas	\$37,565		\$2,530	\$14,527	\$10,777	\$3,485	\$5,090
God's Portion	\$10,990		\$590	\$405	\$1,790	\$150	\$8,045
Easter	\$24,298		\$1,820	\$7,891	\$5,130	\$2,750	\$3,765
School Support	\$7,181			\$6,881			
Holy Days	\$6,829		\$1,230	\$1,185	\$1,550	\$895	\$885
Fundraisers	\$7,000		\$12,087 (Bash, profits to OLT Campus Acct)	\$12,640 (Fall Festival – profits to Rosary Sodality (\$7,000 donated to ANN/SFN General Operating)	\$8,166 (Breakfast – Profits to Rosary Sodality)	\$7,303.20 (Fall Bazaar & Taste of Italy, Breakfast Profits to Christian Mothers, Taste of Italy profits to Campus Acct) (\$4,867.90 donated to SPE Campus Acct)	\$15,103 (Fish Fry, profits to SJD Campus Acct)
Total of Other Collections to assist with Operations	\$105,223		\$21,877	\$49,404	\$30,653	\$27,233.20	\$42,623

*The campus donations may not add up to the total of the Annunciation column because the campus amounts are envelope holders only

This is a lot of information for you to study. It has been challenging to put everything together because of all the transitions that have taken place. Even the financial statement you received last year was somewhat misleading because it did not show what had been happening in previous years or how those circumstances carried over into the 2024–25 accounting. One thing I do know is that income has decreased from last year to this year. I'm not sure whether this was already a trend in previous years, but I do know that costs have continued to increase. Lower income and higher costs are catching up with our parishes. I'm sure those same pressures haven't helped the bottom line in your own household. I don't know how much impact I can have, but I am definitely going to cut back on spending. We can't be like the federal government and spend money that we don't have.

As I work to put together a clear picture of where we stand, it is important to recognize that we have been blessed by some very generous givers. Some of you are among them. Others who have been generous are now deceased or are no longer in a position to give as much as they once did. So, we must ask ourselves: How much can we maintain, and how will we do it?

The next financial letter will help you understand the different savings accounts and endowments that exist.

Fr. Frank