



# Church of the Presentation

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Dear Parish Family:

It's hard to believe that a year has past since my first "*State of the Parish*" last October. I always like to annually report on the past year and look to the new year with its opportunities and challenges. The Church is way past the "Mom and Pop" operation we used to be. So, permit me some observations about the year and please review our fiscal summary which is also enclosed.

The renovation of the altar area and the new baptistery has greatly improved the worship experience for all our parishioners, none of which would have been able to occur without your generosity in donating to the parish's Repair Fund. As evidenced by the auditorium floor, which "bubbled up" in numerous places this summer, there will continue to be ongoing repair needs in a facility almost fifty years old, and for that reason, the Repair Fund will continue to be available for those of you who choose to earmark your donations to help with the upkeep of our parish home. We are also very blessed with a large number of volunteers who do much of the work around our parish. Hundreds also helped on workday to put our grounds in order.

We've had several staff changes over the past couple of years, and with the addition of Gladys Pozza, our new Director of Faith Formation, and Catzel Bumpus, our new Director of Youth Ministry, together with some wonderful new talent in the administrative area, I believe we're already seeing the positive effect their presence is having on our community. By better utilizing the gifts our entire staff brings to the table, we were able to reduce the overall size of our staff which, needless to say, helped our bottom line.

I continue to be very impressed at the level at which our parishioners respond to their baptismal call to mission and ministry and respond with their time, talent and treasure. Our parishioners travel far and wide, to New Orleans, Mexico, Haiti, Philippines and Costa Rica, as well as Jersey City, Newark, Harlem and Englewood, to help those less fortunate. You have also responded generously to missionaries who have come to visit, realizing that "Church" is not only our parish.

Parishes for the most part still operate somewhat on a school-year schedule, with its busiest time being between September and June. As we're in the process of ramping up for this year, I'm excited by what's ahead of us. The level of interest in our Justice and Peace Committee's "Just Faith" program reflects the passion for justice evidenced by this community as a whole. Our parish planning process, "*Share the Dream*", is underway, and I'm excited to

plan our future with input from as many of you as possible. Our first Family Assembly weekend was a few weeks ago and based on last year's feedback, we have taken the opportunity to make some exciting enhancements to our program. We have scheduled energetic speakers and engaging new activities to better help us learn and pass on our faith to the next generation.

As is typical for non-profit charitable organizations without manufacturing or inventory costs, employment costs are Presentation's largest expense, although as previously mentioned, reduced from last year. Supporting outreach is our second largest expense, and our financial statements do not even reflect your generosity in supporting the Archbishop's Annual Appeal, which I am pleased to report that Presentation again met its goal. We continue to co-sponsor St. Paul's Interparochial School in Ramsey, we provide cash gifts to other parishes and a large portion of our outreach expense supplements the time and talent of our many parishioners involved in ministry here.

Our method of dealing with the allocation of assets will be a continuing challenge in the years ahead. Weekly collection levels have been flat for quite a while now, yet I am keenly aware that the economy is affecting many of our parishioners, who are pulled financially in many directions, be it for the Repair Fund, special causes and ministries, restricted gifts, or to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. We would ask you to revisit your level of giving either through weekly collections or electronically with Parish Pay.

I was surprised to discover, however, that Presentation receives very little in the form of estate income, which is an area I would like to see further developed. We all make weekly gifts and yearly gifts, but what about a final gift? Oftentimes final gifts are a strong source of parish revenue. To learn more about this opportunity, we will be hosting an estate planning seminar on Monday, November 10 in the Community Room at 10:00am and repeated at 7:30pm. Several parishioners will be sharing their expertise with us in this area of wills and estates. All are invited!

We use numbers to quantify our situation. What the numbers don't tell is the energy, spirit and love, which exists in our parish community. I look forward to the "Share the Dream" planning process which will continue to allow the parish to thrive, not merely survive. It is exciting to be here and I look forward to the years ahead. I encourage you to continue to support Presentation, so we can continue to be a parish of the 21<sup>st</sup> century which serves many and welcomes all.

God Bless,

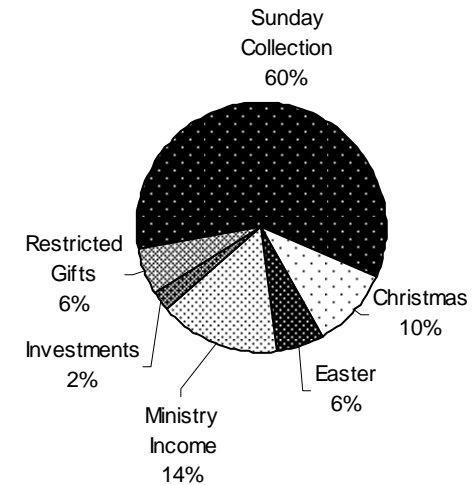


RBS:mn

**CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION  
SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**

	July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008 <i>(in thousands)</i>	July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007 <i>(in thousands)</i>
<b>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>		
Sunday	1196	1171
Christmas	209	204
Easter	124	127
Restricted Gifts	124	121
Ministry Income:		
Family Faith Fees	81	80
Ministry Fundraising	64	49
Ministry Recoveries	171	169
Investments:		
Archdiocesan Return	26	11
Interest Income	63	61
Investments	<u>-39</u>	<u>82</u>
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2075</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries (priests & lay staff)	819	863
Benefits	209	205
Facility Expenses:		
Equipment, Utilities & Overhead	194	199
Rectory	50	22
Ministry Expenses:		
Family Faith Expenses	40	33
Other Ministries' Expenses	361	344
Out of Parish Outreach:		
Archdiocesan Assessment	142	140
St. Paul's Subsidy	43	27
Other Outreach	<u>37</u>	<u>72</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1895</b>	<b>1905</b>
<b>ADDITIONS TO RESERVES</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>170</b>

**Support & Revenue 2007-2008**



**Expenses / Additions to Reserves 2007-2008**

