



St. Barbara Parish
 2859 S. Throop St.
 Chicago, IL 60608
 312-842-7979
 www.StBarbaraChicago.org

October 5, 2007

Dear people of St. Barbara,

This is my second year presenting St. Barbara's Annual report to you. I would like to say that there is a lot of good news to be shared over the past year, along with challenges as we look toward the future. This year the report has been expanded to a Stewardship Report, which includes not only a report of our treasury, but also a report of our time and talent. Like any organization, we must be concerned about our finances, but as a Church we are focused on the Kingdom of God. The Masses celebrated, the sacraments received, the ministries served, the works of charity performed are all intended to bring us closer to God as we reach out to one another in Christ-like love and concern.

Current established ministries have expanded and new ministries have been added. More people are involved in the ministry of Lector and Eucharistic Ministers. A Liturgy Committee has been formed. The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults formed seven people in the faith and prepared them for the sacraments. We welcome our young people with Pray and Play Teen nights. A Young Adult Ministry has begun as a result of this summer's Theology on Tap. A new Parish Pastoral Council has been formed to function as an advisory body. Our parishioners who are homebound or hospitalized have been visited and brought Communion. As a parish, we have been generous in giving to the special collections of the Archdiocese. Our parish has grown, with 41 new families being registered in the past year.

Financially, we have beat the budget for fiscal year 2006-2007. While a deficit of \$103,917 was projected, we ended the fiscal year with a significantly reduced deficit of \$22,276. Our Revenues were nearly \$50,000 more than projected. We were also able to control our expenses, with Actual Expenditures for fiscal year 06-07 \$25,000 less than projected. As a parish, we have reduced our expenses, and you have increased your giving. I thank you for your generosity.

Our financial picture has continued to improve, comparing fiscal year 2005-2006 to 2006-2007:

| | Actual 05-06 | Actual 06-07 | Budget 07-08 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Revenues | \$304,712 | \$369,950 | \$370,400 |
| Expenditures | \$511,088 | \$399,528 | \$407,510 |
| Expenditures exceeding Revenues | (\$206,376) | (\$29,578) | (\$37,110) |
| Archdiocesan Grant | | \$7,302 | \$6,000 |
| Expenditures Paid from Reserves | (\$136,488) | (\$22,276) | Projected Deficit: (\$31,110) |
| Archdiocesan Outstanding Bills | (\$69,888)* | 0 | |

* partially paid in 06-07, with remainder forgiven

Over the past several years, we have used our Reserves to make-up for our shortfalls. These Reserves have now been depleted. The parish does have additional money on deposit with the Archdiocese, but these monies are earmarked for capital improvements, including the Millennium Campaign for the painting of the church for our Centennial Celebration. **For this fiscal year 07-08, our projected deficit is \$31,110.** Our very successful PicnicFest which raised \$23,000, and your increased generosity shown over the past year have been factored into the budget for 07-08.

As we look toward celebrating our Centennial in 2010, we have been a very blessed parish, and I thank you for your presence in our worship community. God has granted each of us unique gifts, graces, and resources that are to be shared. Sharing our time, talents, and treasure are important ways to give back to God in gratitude. Church is the responsibility of all; we each are invited to think about our individual call to serve and share. I also make a special appeal to you today, and over the next several weeks, about the importance of sharing your monetary resources to support your parish.

We begin our Planned Offertory Program this week, in order to ensure that the mission of St. Barbara continues for the next 100 years. Please listen carefully over the next few weeks to discern how God is calling you, as a member of St. Barbara Parish, to share of your God-given blessings.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dennis Ziomek
 Administrator