

October 22, 2008



St. Barbara Parish
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Dear people of St. Barbara,

I present to you St. Barbara's Annual Financial and Stewardship Report for the 2007-2008 Fiscal/Spiritual year. This is the third time I have presented these reports to you, and the first time that I am able to say that we ended the fiscal year with a small surplus of \$20,000. Once again, we were able to control our expenditures, keeping them within our budget, and we were also able to increase our revenues beyond what had been budgeted.

I thank you for your generosity over the past year. I thank in a special way those of you who increased your giving through our Planned Offering Program which took place in October 2007. Some of you were able to increase your giving by \$5 to \$10 or more per week; others, maybe by a dollar or two. There were those of you who were already very generous with your contributions, and I thank you for your sustained support. And I know there were those of you on fixed or limited incomes who were already doing your best. I am also very aware of the challenging economic conditions for many of you. The cost of food and gasoline are up, while your wages may not be keeping up. With the recent downturn in the markets, your investments have fallen in value, and there are some of you feeling the mortgage pinch. If you can maintain your current giving level, that is great. If you have to cut back, I understand. If any increase in giving is possible, I am very grateful.

Our small surplus of \$20,016 includes \$12,968 in interest for money on deposit with the Archdiocese. The remaining surplus of \$7,048 has already been earmarked for maintenance projects. This interest results from money which has been specifically set aside for the painting of the church and other capital improvements and cannot be used for normal operating expenditures. Our parish has also benefited from the generosity of the Archdiocese. We have received a \$20,000 Property and Casualty Insurance Grant, which is split between the parish and the school. The Archdiocese also continues to pay a portion of our clergy salary and benefits. Without this financial assistance from the Archdiocese, we would have had a deficit.

	Actual 07-08	Actual 06-07	Budget 08-09
Revenues	\$430,394	\$369,950	\$388,900
Expenditures	\$410,378	\$399,528	\$415,427
Revenue Surplus or (Shortfall)	\$20,016	(\$29,578)	(\$26, 527)
Archdiocesan Insurance Grant	\$6,000	\$7,302	\$6,000
Expenditures Paid from Reserves		(\$22,276)	Projected Deficit: (\$20,527)

This is also the second year for including a Stewardship Report, which describes what is happening spiritually at St. Barbara. Though we must be concerned with finances, as a Church we are most importantly 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 so that we can show our love for God by our Christ-like concern and love for one another. I am pleased to have welcomed 49 new families to our parish during the past year. Mass attendance was up for both Christmas and Easter; however, our overall Mass attendance has only remained constant. Over 600 registered families does not compare well to our weekly Sunday Mass attendance average of only 419 parishioners. In spite of the tough economy, our charitable giving to the various Special Collection Appeals of the Archdiocese has remained fairly constant and generous.

We have been a very blest parish, and I thank you for the many ways you share your time, talent, and treasure with St. Barbara Parish, returning to God the blessings given you. In 2010, we will celebrate our Centennial. Let's make this celebration truly memorable. Please consider volunteering to become a member of one of the Centennial Committees.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dennis Ziomek, Administrator