

Good Evening / Morning Folks.

I am Ron Marnicio, Chairman of the Stewardship Commission. The Stewardship Commission serves in an advisory role to Fr. Andy on Parish financial matters and the maintenance of our buildings and facilities. The other members of the Stewardship Commission are:

- Bob Brown;
- Pat Cardarople;
- Bindy Curtis;
- Henry Marchi; and
- Pat Murphy.

The Stewardship Commission has two main responsibilities:

- 1) The first is to develop and monitor the annual budget, provide periodic reports to the Parish and individual Commissions on financial matters, and ensure that the Parish complies with the financial management and reporting requirements established by the Diocese.
- 2) The second responsibility is the care and maintenance of our Church building, the Rectory, and the Catholic Student Center. While routine maintenance is funded through the general operating budget, the Commission must at times also develop plans to meet longer-term capital needs and responding to emergencies related to the Parish facilities.

Diocesan guidelines encourage every Parish to report annually to its members on the financial state of the Parish. That is why I am here now.

A couple of weeks ago, Fr. Andy read the passage that told us that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. Well, I'm pleased to tell you that we at STM are not financially rich and so we still have a fighting chance to get to heaven. However, we did have enough money to effectively break even this year. Because of wo generous bequest donations, we also were able to pay back our savings account that we had to dip into a couple of years ago and to complete two maintenance projects already this year that we had been putting off for lack of funds.

Now, let me tell you a few things about our Parish Income and Expenses for the last Fiscal Year which ended last summer. I won't throw too many numbers at you since there is a one-page handout by the doors that summarizes the various income and expenses for last year with some tables and pie charts. The handout also shows the details of our budget for the current Fiscal Year on the other side.

Our total income last year was just over a half million dollars. The offertory and general donations amounted to half of that total. The bequested donations I mentioned before were almost 15% of last year's income all by themselves. In addition, we again received a \$65,000 subsidy from the Diocese to help

support, but not fully pay for, our Catholic Student Organization program. This Diocesan subsidy was 12% of our total income for the year. Our traditional Parish fundraising events, the Yard Sale and Christmas Fair, contributed almost 10% of our income. The 2017 Matching Gift Campaign brought in about \$22,000 which was critical to meeting expenditures for the last Fiscal Year. The new “200 Club” fundraiser also has become a great contributor, bringing in almost \$20,000 so far in its first year. The Sponsorship Program that you read about in the bulletin from time to time resulted in the acquisition of almost \$5,000 of equipment, goods or liturgical materials that the Parish did not have to purchase directly. The Parish’s UNH Alumni also donated about \$1,000 this year, and the Music Ministry held three events and raised money for their own Program’s use and to add to the general operating fund. Because of these contributions, we were able to again keep the tuition for our Faith Formation programs at a discounted level and wave the tuition costs for a number of families that could not afford them. Parishioners have been very generous and responsive to our requests again this year. Your contributions were all very welcomed and I thank you on behalf of the individuals who have benefitted from the Programs and actions that were enhanced by these donations. I encourage everyone to get involved with our fundraising events, and contribute your time, energy or monetary support to them so that they are a financial and community-building success. The Christmas Fair is right around the corner on December 1st. Renewal of the “200 Club” subscriptions is happening right now, and the 2019 Matching Gift Campaign is currently scheduled to kick-off in March or April. Another entertaining musical event is also being planned for February.

So that was our income for last year – “Where did all the money go?” you might be asking. Just as in prior years, approximately half of our total expenditures is for the salaries and benefits for Fr. Andy and our dedicated and under-compensated Parish staff. Our second biggest expense is money paid to the Diocese. We are assessed a certain amount based on our Parish income, much like our personal “income taxes”. We also are asked throughout the year by the Diocese to contribute to a number of good causes and Diocesan initiatives via second collections. It should be noted that some of these second collections carry a specified minimum assessment, which means that the Parish must make up the difference when the money that is collected at the Masses is less than that amount. In these cases, the additional money must come out of the Parish’s general operating fund. For STM last year, our payments to the Diocese were almost exactly equal to the amount of the CSO Subsidy that we received from the Diocese. Our third biggest expense last year was for equipment and supplies. These costs are noted separately on the handout for Liturgical supplies (such as candles, wine, hosts, flowers and the Music Ministry), and Parish Office, Rectory, CSO and Faith Formation supplies. Our fourth biggest category of expenditures (amounting to 6.5% of the total) was utilities. The Parish has many of the same utility bills that we have at home or our apartments: oil; natural

gas; electricity; water; cable; telephone and internet. Keep in mind, however, that we have 3 separate Parish buildings to supply and support. We also pay outside contractors for some services (such as landscaping and snow removal, office equipment servicing, and cleaning). We also must pay the premiums for property and worker's compensation insurance. These contractor and insurance costs amount to another 10% of our total outlays. Our Faith Formation and CSO Programs were again active and growing. Enrollment and participation are up for both programs and many of the associated Program costs have increased proportionately. You know, though, these are costs we are quite happy to pay. Our appreciation goes out to Ann and Ryan for their efforts and the success of their programs. Our wonderful Food Pantry continues to serve a large number of our neighbors. All money donated to the Food Pantry is kept separate and used only for the Food Pantry.

Last year we spent about 5% of our total expenses on routine building repairs. The Church was built when Harry Truman was president; the Rectory when Dwight Eisenhower was president; and the CSC when JFK was president. There should be no surprise, then, that we continually need to spend money on our buildings to correct long-term wear and tear and general disrepair. This year we repaired the slates on the Church roof. We also waterproofed the leaking wall in the Church basement and improved the drainage in the area outside of the wall. Both of these projects were relatively costly. In addition, we reviewed a two-page "wish list" of additional projects at the Stewardship Commission meeting earlier this month that we must try to prioritize and tackle. Realistically, we don't have enough money on-hand to do even a quarter of these projects. We will continue, however, to quickly fix safety concerns and situations that if not addressed promptly would cost much more later.

The Stewardship Commission remains committed to increasing our Parish Income and being as cost-effective as possible. I want to thank you once again for your efforts and contributions to the many programs and good works of our Parish. I would also especially like to thank the other members of the Stewardship Commission and our Parish staff who have done another amazing job of controlling costs this year. The continued vitality and financial stability of the Parish and its many programs and good works depends on all of us giving what we can of our time, talents, and resources. This includes our high school students, the UNH students, our new families, and our long-standing Parishioners. Please, get more involved in some aspect of the Church this year. It is a rewarding experience and no time is better than right now. With your help, we will find ways to support the activities that make this Parish spiritually "rich" if not monetarily "rich". Thank you, for your attention.