

HOW ARE WE DOING WITH THE DEBT THIS YEAR?

First of all, let's look at what happened last year.

On the Church side of the ledger: in fiscal year 2015-2016, we had \$836, 513 in income, which included \$573,712 from the Sunday collection, \$73, 044 from the other major collections such as Christmas, Easter and the Annual Appeal, and monies from socials, donations, rentals, sacramental offerings and CCD/PREP Fees.

The School income stood at \$853, 789. Tuition counted for over \$733,00 of that and fees comprised just over \$62,000. CARES lost \$4,315, but we believe this has been corrected going forward.

Church/Rectory expenses totaled \$536,963. Among these were salaries (\$240,626), taxes and benefits (\$112,081), insurance (\$58, 502). Rectory operating expenses cost \$15,514; utilities cost \$13, 945, maintenance \$1643. The Church utilities cost \$2020, maintenance cost \$2453. Office expenses, program costs and liturgical expenses account for the rest. ***The Church/Rectory came out \$299,550 to the good.***

The School expenses were \$1,167,738. The \$313,949 deficit was covered by the Church, which resulted in a \$14,399 deficit for the entire parish. The big items in school expenses were salaries (\$767,929), Taxes and benefits (\$245,000), Maintenance (\$66,004) and utilities (\$57, 480). Other expenses included administration, office expenses, and instructional materials.

How did we do on the debt?

The good news: after years of the debt rising by \$250,000 annually, last year it rose “only” by \$99,919! Two biggest items: we left \$76,900 of our assessment unpaid, and interest on the loan for the gym was not paid--over \$17,000. We need to keep going in this direction til there is NO RISE in debt, and then reduction!

What *must* we do, going forward?

Remember, we have to keep current with all diocesan bills to remain open and viable! Last year, we had but four months to come up with \$130,000 plus to slay the “vampire bills.” We did it because we drew from our Heritage of Faith and Contingency Funds. These bills return every year. We cannot keep drawing from the Funds. We have to step up and pay these bills from ordinary income. To date we have paid about \$40,000 or so towards the \$130,000 or so which looms.



We hope that between the Easter Collection and the Auction, we may pay another \$45,000 or so. With your support, we will.



That leaves \$45,000-50,000 that MUST come from the weekly offerings. The plea last year was to raise the collection weekly by \$2,000; in recent months, we have made budget, but from July through early fall, we did not.

Everyone needs to do the following:

1. ***Donate fairly, proportionately and consistently to the Sunday collection. Make sure if you do not get to church because you are away or there is bad weather, or you are ill, that you bring the missed offering when you return.*** Please prayerfully consider giving God the first 5% of your income and using the next 5% for other good works; He gives us everything, and lets us use 90% for any noble and legitimate purpose, once we pay Him honor with our tithe! If you cannot reach the full tithe, any increase will be helpful.
2. ***Consider increasing your special donations to such things as Christmas and Easter collections and the Annual Appeal.*** The Appeal made well over \$50,000 last year; this year, it was just under \$27,000. If you have not responded yet, please do so, and generously.
3. ***Consider e-giving.*** It is consistent, safe and helps us make budget all through vacation time and during wicked winter weather.
4. ***Remember that THIS is your parish.*** Except for a genuine necessity, do not go somewhere else because the Mass time is more “convenient.” Community bonds cannot be formed and loyalties cannot deepen and ownership and a sense of the future cannot happen if you consistently look for a Mass time that fits your wants.

God bless all those who dug in last year and have been faithful stewards this year and will continue to be in the future. Let's all remember one important fact.

It comes down to this: Is Saint Martha important to you or not? How important? Prove it!