

Annual Report

A yearly update for our parish members

Father Jim reports on the “State of the Parish”

My dear fellow parishioners:

Enclosed you will find a copy of St. Francis parish financial report for the recently completed 2002-2003 fiscal year. As you can see, we have ended the year “in the black.” However this is true only because our policy is to never spend money that we do not have. To stay “in the black” it was necessary to cut over \$100,000 out of the budget. The parish Finance Council did this primarily by postponing non-emergency building repairs and improvements and by postponing salary increases. It was decided that it was better to do this rather than to cut programs and services within the parish. However, I think you will agree that we cannot postpone these things forever. (Please note that the church renovation was funded entirely out of the Church Renovation Capital Campaign, not out of the church operating budget.)

This past year has been a difficult financial year for all. Many have lost their jobs. Hopefully this coming year will be a better year. Meanwhile, I ask you to seriously consider increasing your financial

contributions to the parish so that we may meet our budget and continue to do the work of Christ here at St. Francis by forming our young, caring for the sick, and helping those in need -- just to mention a few.

Personally, I give the first 10% of my income to the church and other charities. I find this is sometimes a challenge but it is important to do in response to what God has given me. After all, all that I have is a gift from God. Is it not correct



that I give back the first portion, so that God’s work can continue in the church? I have found that in being a good steward in this way, I am richly blessed. It is just part of having good spiritual health. I encourage you to do this or at least to strive toward this goal.

Enclosed also is a copy of your financial contributions to St. Francis for the first seven months of this calendar year. Please check it for accuracy. If there is a mistake, please contact our parish business manager, Dave Barera (821-2111).

As you will see from the photographs in this report many good things are happening at St. Francis. This not only requires the time and talent and faith of thousands of people, it also requires putting our faith into effect through our financial support. Please reflect on how you are doing in your financial stewardship.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Jim Mc Dougall
Pastor