Dear Friends,

My heart is filled with joy and hope each time I look out at your faces at Mass. It is a privilege for me to witness the incredible things God is doing in our parish and through so many of you—and I know He has so much more in store for us. The stories and pictures on the following pages highlight some of the incredible work done for and through our parish this past year.

We’re forming a parish culture in which we work to serve both those who are coming to Mass and those who aren’t or can’t. In the year ahead, we’re going to start a program of small groups to better nurture the faith of the folks who do come regularly and to provide an entry point to our community for those who don’t. The goal is for our Sunday experience to be so uplifting and positive that you will be comfortable and excited to invite unchurched friends or family members to come. We will work hard to be sure that from the moment people arrive on our campus, they know we are glad that they are here.

Our Lady of Fatima Parish makes us as individuals and our community as a whole better by leading each of us to take the next step on our path of discipleship. An important part of discipleship is our financial stewardship. Giving to our parish is an act of worship, honors God, and makes the ministries of our parish possible. Your financial generosity enables us to invest in nurturing and deepening our faith for our children, teens, and adults; to create enriching experiences such as Catholic HEART Workcamp and retreats; to support our parish operations; to provide modest salaries and benefits to our staff; and to expand our ministries.

Thank you all for your generosity in investing in the future of our parish. The weekend of Sunday, November 24th will be Stewardship Sunday here at Fatima. Between now and then, I earnestly request that you make a gift to the Grand Annual Collection and consider increasing your regular offertory giving.

Please take time to answer an important question in prayer—one that I’ve taken to prayer myself in preparing this letter: “What is God asking me to do as a next step in giving?”

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Gerald Foye
CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

This experience is shared in a place particularly prepared for the religious life of children called the Atrium. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is rooted in the belief that God and the child have a unique relationship with one another, particularly before the child reaches the age of 6; that the growth of this relationship should be assisted by an adult, but is directed by the Spirit of God; that children need their own place to foster the growth of that relationship; and that the child's spiritual growth is best served through tangible lessons.

Our Level 1 Atrium focuses on the development of 3- to 6-year-olds. Materials on the life of Jesus Christ and his teachings help to make the mystery of God concrete for each child. The heart of the catechesis for children under 6 revolves around the Parable of the Good Shepherd. Jesus announces that he is the Good Shepherd who calls each one by name. The sheep listen to the voice of the Shepherd and follow him. 50 children (preschool and kindergarten) are currently enrolled in the Level 1 Atrium at Our Lady of Fatima.

250 children in grades 1-6 are also benefiting from Atrium lessons, including: the Good Shepherd and other Parables to explain the Eucharistic Presence and the Kingdom of God; Liturgy and Liturgical Celebrations; Altar Review; Incarnation and Land of Israel Geography; Infancy Narratives; Advent, Nativity and Epiphany; Baptism; Lent and Easter Celebration; and Pentecost. 40 children are preparing for First Reconciliation and Eucharist in May 2020.

"I am impressed with the way Lucy has tapped into a variety of ministries and parishioners, which include daily Mass attendees, long time parishioners, teens, young families, etc. to volunteer their time and talents in the faith formation of OLOF children using the Good Shepherd curriculum. When you witness her enthusiasm and hard work it makes everyone she approaches want to help. She’s turned it into a Parish Community effort."

~ Anna Roughedge
Faith Formation

TRAINING FOR THE CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
By Meredith Phelps

When I heard about Father Gerald's plans to bring Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to Our Lady of Fatima, I couldn't have been more thrilled. Our family has sought out this program in various locations for four of our children over the past seven years, and we were always willing to drive a long distance to participate in it. This past summer, I was trained as a catechist so that I could continue to share the gifts of the Good Shepherd with my own children and with other families in the parish. Our trainer, Joyce Scherer-Hooock, was wonderful and shared a wealth of knowledge from her decades of teaching experience. The prayerful atmosphere and beautiful materials of the Atrium allow for a full-immersion learning experience of the faith. As a result, the children's takeaways are precious, and the lessons learned will stay with them throughout their lives. Not only is a child in the program well-catechized, but the child's whole family stands to benefit from his or her love of Jesus as the Good Shepherd and deeper appreciation for the liturgy. In my opinion, Our Lady of Fatima's investment of time, talent, and treasure in the Good Shepherd program for our preschool children will yield wonderful fruits and benefits to the parish community.
INTRODUCING LIFE TEEN

This fall, Our Lady of Fatima introduced a new youth ministry program: Life Teen (for high school) and Edge (for middle school). Designed to help youth experience Jesus in a personal way, the curriculum has three prongs: semester (focusing on a catechetical theme), issue (navigating cultural challenges), and social (growing as brothers and sisters in Christ). Our Life Teen Mass allows both age groups to come together and participate in worship. The Life Teen program moves our youth through Confirmation and into adulthood as faith-filled disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our “Life House” offers a welcoming environment for middle and high schoolers. Weekly pizza and prayer for teens extends their faith formation and sense of community beyond the Sunday celebration.

CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP

On July 13th, 46 teens and adults from Our Lady of Fatima and St. Bridget parishes took a 14-hour bus ride to Morganton, North Carolina to provide 7 days of service with the Catholic HEART Workcamp. Catholic HEART Workcamp provides opportunities for parish youth groups to restore homes, feed the hungry, lift the spirits of children, bring joy to the elderly and disabled, and offer assistance to social agencies.

"Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!"

- Pope Francis
PHILADELPHIA MISSION TRIP
by Coco Stevenson

On July 8-11, a small group of teens and Life Teen Core Team Leaders went to the St. Francis Inn in Kensington, PA. When we were there we helped serve the homeless and poor by serving food, cleaning and setting tables, cooking in the kitchen, or working in a thrift shop.

We came face to face with addiction, abuse, mental illness, and extreme poverty. Before we went, I thought a lot about the people I would serve and the things I would see. However, once I actually started to serve these people, I realized they were not frightening and that they all had important stories to share. The next day, I noticed a few very sweet things about them. They would share with others even though they did not even have enough for themselves and many people would smile no matter how hard their lives were.

All of us on the trip laughed, cried, and were able to comfort one another when we were down or overwhelmed. Ultimately, I learned many important things. I learned to always trust God no matter what and to let Him guide me. I have also learned to be thankful for what I have and not dwell on what I don’t. I am grateful I was able to go on this trip and hope to go again. Truly, I would recommend this trip to anyone who has the opportunity to go.

‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’
- Matthew 25:40
SUMMER ADVENTURE

Children’s faith came to life this summer at Our Lady of Fatima’s Summer Adventure camp, themed the Mount Everest Bible Adventure. Over 150 participants ages 4 and up explored the miraculous power of God’s Word, which provides, comforts, heals, forgives and gives us ever lasting life.

The groups participated in Bible study and crafts. Most notable is the beautifully crafted and painted cross that is placed outside our church. Each tile was painted by a Summer Adventure participant with the help of the camp leaders, and the cross stands now as a symbol of the power of God working through our faith community.

"Summer Adventure is about taking a deep breath and enjoying some quality, wholesome friendly fun. Everyone is there to experience and celebrate our faith. It’s so immersive and so vibrant that it touches your heart in a special way."

~ Cathy Allen, parent and volunteer

HOLY FAMILY SUMMER PROGRAM

Organized by parishioner John Ollquist, the Holy Family Summer Enrichment Program supports our sister parish in Dorchester in several ways, including providing a summer camp and summer activities for inner city children, organizing field trips, making donations for Thanksgiving dinners, and setting up a Christmas giving tree for the childrens’ benefit.

In a recent thank-you letter, Father John Currie and the Holy Family staff said in part: "You have compassionately served all of the children; many who live in very challenging circumstances. For that, we are deeply thankful and indebted to you. May our good and loving God bless you and those you hold dear in your hearts now and forever."
**OUR MISSION**

At Our Lady of Fatima: we are committed to loving God, loving each other and making disciples.

**PASTORAL VISITOR PROGRAM**

The essence of the Pastoral Visitor Program is a ministry devoted to sharing of the Eucharist, prayer and to listen and respond to those we are sick, homebound or residents at Orchard Hill, Wingate or Sudbury Pines nursing homes. By our visitation we present God’s love and the love and care of the Our Lady of Fatima community to those individuals.

*And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?*

~ Matthew 25:39

**PASTORAL REFLECTION**

By Josiane Gemayel

Every time I bring communion, I am humbled and fortified in my faith. I am humbled by the faith of those who suffer, who are lonely, who could complain but choose not to. I am humbled by the woman who does not receive communion without reciting an act of contrition. I am humbled by the old gentleman, who would always remove his cap, before receiving the Body of Christ. I am humbled that they know their "Our Father" prayer still when they have forgotten many things.

**SMALL GROUP FAITH FORMATION**

Coming soon! Small group faith formation where participants can discuss our message series, delve deeper into our faith and support one another.

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

As disciples of Christ we are always in the process of spiritual growth as we seek to draw closer to Him. This fall, the parish launched Discovering Christ, a 7-week series designed to foster a personal encounter with Jesus and deepen our commitment to His teachings. Whether you’re at a crossroads in your faith journey or questioning where to find purpose and fulfillment in your life, Discovering Christ offers a supportive environment in the company of other followers to explore these critical topics as a community.

Our Parish Council: Back row - Dan Miller, Amy Dooley, Josh Phelps, Father Gerald. Front row - Chrissy Murray, Josiane Gemayel, Andrew Lewis, Kevin Matthews, Mary Peterson

Our Finance Council: Back row - Bob Dooley, Father Gerald, Mary Mullin Front row - Tom Biggins, Frank Wilson, Diane Mahany, Stephen Knightly
Parish Ministries

MUSIC MINISTRY

The music ministry extends the embrace of Christ to all who wish to lift their hearts and minds to God through music. It is our desire to share God's loving presence with all, and in doing so, assist the parish community in their mission! Our music ministry includes cherubs, choristers, youth, teens and adults participating weekly in various ensembles.

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

Our Lady of Fatima has many missions, organizations, and opportunities for lay parishioners to be engaged with the Parish, our community and each other to grow in their Catholic Faith.

Altar Servers
Baptismal Team
Bereavement
Catechist
Catholic HEART Workcamp
Community Outreach
Eucharistic Adoration
Eucharistic Ministers
Finance Council
Food Pantry
Greeters / Ushers
Holy Family in Dorchester
Hospitality
Knights of Columbus
Lectors
Liturgical Decorating
Men's Group
Pastoral Council
Pastoral Visitors
Rosary Devotion
Sacrists
Saint Vincent de Paul
Welcoming Committee
Women's Spirituality
Our efforts and desire to increase offertories, the grand annual collection, and gifts reflect our determination to advance numerous ministries, enhance our Mass experiences, and meet the demands created by having one priest. Put simply Fr. Souza cannot do everything and be at multiple place as once, so we need to invest in staff to ensure our collective mission and service to God is fulfilled.

WAYS TO GIVE

There are a variety of ways to give to Our Lady of Fatima. We try to provide as many options as possible so we can help our members give in the way that works best for them. If you have any questions about the ways to give, please reach out to the Parish Office.

Offertory Basket
You can always give with cash or check or your envelope via the collection basket. Your checks can be tracked during the year for a tax receipt as well, which is a nice bonus for supporting the mission.

Through Online Banking
Just as you might use your online banking account to pay bills or schedule automatic transfers, you can give to our parish in the same way. Disciples make giving part of their plan so we encourage you to make it automatic. If it is all the same to you, we think this is the best way to give.

Through fatimasudbury.org
You can give to Our Lady of Fatima via our new and improved online system powered by ParishSoft. Online giving in particular helps us prepare the parish budget in the year ahead. ParishSoft meets the highest banking-level security standards set forth by the Payment Card Industry (PCI) to ensure safe and confidential transactions. It’s safe, secure and easy!

<table>
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<th>STEPS INCREASE</th>
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<td>Our Lady of Fatima has many missions, organizations, and opportunities for lay parishioners to be engaged with the Parish, our community and each other to grow in their Catholic Faith.</td>
<td>Annual</td>
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What is God asking me to do as a next step in giving?
Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2019:

On behalf of Father Souza, the Finance Council presents the operating statement for Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019). Our parish is blessed with amazing liturgies, beautiful facilities, and vibrant ministries, all of which reflect God’s grace, the commitment of our parishioners and staff and the very generous donations we receive throughout the year. Our Lady of Fatima has a solid financial foundation, which helps us to grow and serve the Lord. Hopefully, you have seen and experienced our ministries in action and the many improvements that have been made to our facilities. Going forward, we are embarking on a number of exciting growth initiatives that will require our collective gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

2019 Financial Results:
The offertory, Grand Annual Collection, and gifts and bequests represent the bulk of revenue for the parish. For fiscal 2019, our total revenues of $854,000 were below the $870,000 budget largely because the Grand Annual Collection fell below expectations. We had budgeted for a decline in revenue from a record fiscal 2018 year, which was inflated by tax-deductibility-related timing effects. The $887,000 total 2019 expenses were $148,000 lower than 2018 expenses as a major renovation to Hurley Hall was completed. However, expenses were above budget by roughly $30,000 as we made a conscious effort to bolster our youth ministry and invest in our facilities during the year. With expenses exceeding revenues because of extra spending and revenue shortfall, the parish ended the year with an operating deficit of $33,000.

Our Lady of Fatima parishioners donated approximately $102,000 to a wide variety of charities, including Holy Family Summer Camp, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the retirement fund for priests and sisters, and various other designated second collections. These funds are not part of our operational budget and pass directly through to the beneficiaries, but nonetheless reflect the vibrant giving community we strive to foster.

Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Outlook:
Looking to fiscal year 2020, the parish will be adding important resources in youth ministry and faith formation, and will hire a full time finance and operations manager. Our intent is to maximize our pastoral resources for ministry and alleviate administrative demands. As a result, we are budgeting expenses to rise by approximately $62,000 in these areas, but offsets elsewhere will hold total expense growth to $10,000. The final fiscal year 2020 expense budget is $897,000. We plan to fund these additional resources and initiatives by increasing our offertory, Grand Annual Collection, and gifting to grow revenues from $854,000 in 2019 to $897,000 in 2020.

The parish staff is always diligent and careful in managing parish resources. Our efforts and desire to increase offertories, the Grand Annual Collection, and gifts reflect our determination to advance numerous ministries, enhance our Mass experiences, and meet the demands created by having one priest. Put simply, Fr. Souza cannot do everything and be at multiple places at once, so we need to invest in staff to ensure our collective mission and service to God is fulfilled.

Parish Reserves:
The parish maintains a reserve of funds that as of June 30 totaled $758,000. These funds have been accumulated from major donations and operating surpluses from previous years. The $47,000 decline in reserves during 2019 reflects the deficit incurred to fund the programs discussed. Previous declines have been the result of a concerted effort to upgrade our facilities over the past few years. While we expect a lower rate of capital spending going forward, our maintenance and facility needs are many and require our continued stewardship with the help of your generous support.

Closing Thoughts:
We hope this report provides helpful insight into the financial health and needs of the parish. We are thankful for your generous gifts and contributions to the offertories, Grand Annual Collection, and Catholic Appeal. We appreciate and need your ongoing contributions of resources, time, and energy in service to the parish and the successful ministries of Our Lady of Fatima.

With gratitude to God and to you,

Father Gerald Souza, Tom Biggins, Robert Dooley, Stephen Knightly, Dianne Mahany, Mary Mullin, Frank Wilson

Our Lady of Fatima
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019
(in thousands)

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<th>Parish Revenues</th>
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<th>FY2019</th>
<th>FY2020</th>
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<td>Grand Annual Collection</td>
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<td>Religious Education &amp; Directed Donations</td>
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<td>Liturgical Income, Fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gifts, Bequests, Donations</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$ 854</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 897</strong></td>
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<td>Music</td>
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<td>Central Ministry Gifts/Miscellaneous</td>
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| Operating Surplus/Deficit | $$ (68) $$ | $$ (35) $$ | $$ - $$ |

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