The Annual Report is an opportunity to review the pastoral and financial status of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish over the past fiscal year (July ’10 -June ’11). As most are aware I was not appointed pastor until June 2011. Much of the success of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish during this past year was accomplished under Fr. Joe Raek’s leadership. During his tenure Fr. Joe did a lot to welcome people back to the parish, heal wounds, encourage greater participation and renovate the upper church. Since this report covers the year prior to my arrival, I asked Fr. Joe to provide his comments and reflect on what was accomplished during the period. Fr. Joe writes the following...

Fr. Bill asked me to give a reflection on my last year at St. Thomas. Like the previous years, a great deal was accomplished at the parish.

- The religious education program had a wonderful year with an increased enrollment and a tremendous spirit shared by all.
- At the chapel, we had a team approach with Marlene DeLeon. Deacon Jerry and I serving the students. Marlene and Tony Esposito took a number of the students to Phoenix to work at a homeless shelter.
- The highlight of the year was Deacon Mark being ordained a priest. Father Mark Murphy celebrated his first Mass at St. Thomas, that was a day to remember!
- While all those special events were happening, there were several improvements to the facilities.
- The side porch of the rectory was replaced and wainscoting added.
- The parking lot in front of the Parish Center was finally expanded, finally!
- Extensive work was also done in both cemeteries. Overall, it was a great year. I look back upon it and give the Lord thanks for all that was accomplished and shared. God Bless all of you!

Love, Fr. Joe

I appreciate and thank Fr. Joe for all that he did to establish the foundation for future growth and projects. As we move forward it’s important to review the financial condition of our entire Parish including St. Thomas Church, our Cemetery, and St. Basil’s Chapel. During my first few months as your pastor it’s evident to me that our many strengths include you, your faith, your encouragement and your generosity. I want to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to you for your continued commitment to this Parish. In addition to the financial summary, this year’s Annual Report focuses on the number of activities that makes our parish so vibrant. As we move forward I hope that we can continue to evangelize so that our parish is seen as a place where all are welcomed, accepted and loved. I pray that all we do will be an expression of our love for the Lord Jesus, His Church and all people and His love for us.

As Parishioners and primary contributors to the financial wellbeing of our Parish, it is important to me that you see how your contributions are being put to work on behalf of the Parish. I want to be a good steward of the resources that have been placed in my trust. In the upcoming weeks I hope to provide specific goals and projects as we move forward.

Fr. Bill Devine
A message from Fr. John

The first three months of my priesthood have truly been a grace-filled time here at St. Thomas Aquinas. I have been blessed to get to know many of you and to begin to share your joys and hopes, your struggles and fears. I’ve even managed to get over some of your homes for dinner and hope to keep getting to know all of you better.

Sunday Mass is always the highlight of my week. I’ve always been loud and energetic so preaching is truly a joy for me. One of my favorite aspects to preaching is prayerfully pondering how the readings for a particular Sunday apply to our lives today. That is a constant reminder to me of how Jesus Christ is still alive and active in our world. It’s so important for all of us to remember just how much God loves us. Preaching and celebrating the sacraments are always about that: God loves us and wants us to welcome him into our hearts, and our whole lives.

Some of the highlights for me this summer were being involved in hiring our new Coordinator of High School Ministries, Aimee Manzoni. She’ll be responsible for our confirmation program and for coordinating LifeTeen. I was impressed by her enthusiasm for working with teens and her love of Christ and His Church. Also, I was able to accompany some of our teens to the Stubenville East Conference held at URI. Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation for about 14 hours over three days was a true blessing for me. It reminded me of just how much faith our teens have. A lot of times people will ask what it’s like to hear confessions. The answer I always give is: very humbling. It is such a blessing to be an instrument for God’s mercy and to be able to say the words of absolution.

As we enter Fall I’m looking forward to getting to know more of our youth through our religious education program. I’m also looking forward to the students at Bridgewater State University returning to welcoming them back and working with the Catholic Center. If I can ever be of service to you, please don’t hesitate to ask! Please pray for me and know that I pray for you.

—Fr. John

---The following are the varied ministries offered at both St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Basil’s Chapel. Please contact the Rectory at (508)697-9528 or the Chapel at (508)531-1346, if you are interested in learning more, or if you would like to volunteer.

**Greeters**

Often the first face a new person meets, the participants in this ministry welcome parishioners to Mass, distribute bulletins and flyers. They are also knowledgeable in parish activities and are able to answer or direct inquiries.

**Ushers**

Our ushers help the Mass progress smoothly by assisting with seating, the collection, providing direction for the gift bearers and tidying the pews after Mass.

**Altar Servers**

New servers are always welcomed to participate in the privilege of serving at the Lord’s Table. This ministry is open to students in grades three and up. This is a beautiful way for a child to participate in the Mass! Training and robes are provided.

**Lectors**

A group of dedicated and trained individuals is scheduled by a parishioner on a rotating schedule to read the First and Second Readings, Responsorial Psalm and Prayer of the Faithful, as well as parish announcements.

**Altar Guild**

This dedicated group of people keeps the St. Thomas Aquinas worshipping spaces attractive. They clean the interior of the church, place flowers on the altar and decorate according to the liturgical calendar. They meet after the 7AM Mass on Fridays.

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

For parishioners who have been trained, there is a rotating schedule to assist the Celebrant in the distribution of Communion. There is also an opportunity for those interested, to provide Communion to the sick and homebound.

**Choir**

We presently have a choir at the 10AM Mass Family at Saint Thomas, which includes adults and children (middle school and up). This ministry enhances our liturgical celebrations and helps us raise our voices in praise of God. Let us know if you play an instrument!

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Contact: Allison Gingras (508)243-1133 gingkai@aol.com

Adoration is coming before the Blessed Sacrament (consecrated host), as it is displayed in the Monstrance upon the altar. St. Thomas Aquinas (lower church) holds an Adoration every Saturday: following the 9:00 AM Mass until 3:45 PM and every First Friday from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM. We invite you to spend some sacred time with Our Lord and find peace the world can not give.

Our God Reigns! Alleluia!
**Prayer Devotions**

To enrich your prayer life or learn how to pray the Rosary, please consider the following devotions.

*Perpetual Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal* after the 9AM Mass on Monday in the lower Church.

*First Friday devotion* following 9AM Mass, Benediction, prayer service and rosary.

*First Saturday devotion* following 9AM Mass, Benediction, prayer service and rosary.

*Divine Mercy Chaplet* every Tuesday evening in the lower church at 7 PM, led by Deacon Jerry. Come discover the mercies our Lord wants to pour out for us!

**Parish Bible Study**  
Contact: Rectory Secretary (508)697-9258  
This is offered once a month from September through June. Materials are provided by the parish. The women’s group meets in the morning, the men’s and mixed groups meet in the evening. Please contact the Rectory for current study book and schedule of these meetings.

**Candlelight Rosary Procession**  
Contact: Elaine Sweetman (508)697-8154  
The Processions, held on the 13th of the month from May through October, are in honor of Our Lady of Fatima. They include inspirational music, a guest speaker, Candlelight Rosary Procession led by a beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima and Benediction. Weather permitting, the procession is held outdoors. All are invited to deepen their relationship with our Heavenly Mother and learn about Mary’s message to the Children of Fatima.

**MOMS (Ministry of Mothers Sharing)**  
Contact: Karen Geraghty (508)697-2823  
smakgeraghty@yahoo.com Amy Bracken (508)697-7234 avbracken@gmail.com  
MOMS is a nationwide Catholic ministry geared towards mothers. MOMS allows each participant in the eight week program the opportunity for self-growth, personal reflection, and spiritual renewal. It provides a group experience of learning, praying and ministering to each other. The program is open to all mothers, young and old, in the parish.

**St. Thomas Aquinas Religious Education (CCD)**  
Contact: Karen Geraghty Grades 1-8  
Aimee Manzoni Grades 9-10  
Debbie Hill Administrator  
(508)697-3652 www.stthomasaquinass.com  
While parents are the primary teachers of our faith, the Religious Ed program is happy to help our families with this important ministry. We are blessed to have over 90 catechists who volunteer their time and talents to teach more than 1,100 children in grades 1-10 who meet during one of the nine sessions offered. Our parish center has 11 classrooms, a gymnasium and kitchen all of which are used by the program and by various church and community organizations. Volunteers are also needed to help out as classroom aides, hall monitors and substitutes.

**For Children**  
**Vacation Bible School**  
Contact: Beth Peterson (508)697-7986  
VBS is a themed program held in July that provides children 4-11 an amazing way to encounter God. There are games, stories, music and crafts that are all centered on the theme. This is a wonderful opportunity for adult and teen volunteers to share their time and talents. If you are great with groups of children or like to do crafts, we welcome you and your abilities!

**Good Friday Retreat**  
Contact: Allison Gingers (508)822-4715  
Held from 10AM-12PM, in the Parish Center, this retreat includes a multi-media slide presentation of the Stations of the Cross, snack and small group activity.

**Life Teen**  
Contact: Aimee Manzoni  
Life Teen is an international youth ministry program centered on the Eucharist. Since the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith, all activities begin with Mass and flow back to the Mass. Homilies and contemporary worship songs are geared toward the youth of our parish but all are invited. St. Thomas Aquinas offers a noon time Mass followed by Life Night at the Parish Center. This is a non-classroom based activity. It can be catechetical, social or issue based. Apart from Mass and Life Night, other events include: open gym, retreats, service projects and social outings.

**Troop Support - St. Basil’s**  
Contact: Sally Stewart (508)697-7842  
Items are collected year-round for distribution to military troops who are stationed overseas. At Christmas, community members knit stockings which are filled with candy and sent in care packages. During the year, suggestion lists are made available. Donations toward defraying postage costs are always available. If you have a loved one who would like to receive a package, please contact us.

**The Cookie Brigade - St. Basil’s**  
During the college students’ school year, cookies are made by parishioners for the students to enjoy after their weekly Wednesday evening Mass and anytime they drop by to study. A sign-up sheet is available in the coffee area of St. Basil’s.
Spaghetti Suppers – St. Basil’s
Contact: Barbara Henault (508)531-1346
Once a month, college students are invited to a spaghetti supper cooked by parishioners who also sign up to provide sauce and meatballs. The students welcome this opportunity to eat outside the dining halls.

Liturgical Environment – St. Basil’s
Contact: Barbara Henault (508)531-1346
This committed group takes care of the Chapel environment by decorating according to the liturgical calendar with flowers and linens. Cleaning is scheduled and the community is invited to help. They also make sure all altar linens are clean and pressed.

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Women’s Club
Contact: Carol Kelley, President (508)297-0140
All women are welcome to participate in the activities of the Women’s Club. The group meets March - December during which time they offer entertainment and enrichment with guest speakers. Refreshments are always provided. A day of prayer is held during Lent. They organize the fall and spring rummage sales and help with the Christmas Bazaar. As a result of their efforts, the monies they raise provide at least two scholarships to deserving students.

Interesting websites
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish ~ http://stthomasaquinas.com/
Archdiocese of Boston ~ www.bostoncatholic.org
Cardinal Sean’s blog ~ www.cardinalseansblog.org
Boston Catholic TV ~ www.catholictv.com

Parish Pastoral Council Members

Paul Albert
Kathleen Palmieri
Pamela Arrighi
Ginniy Timmerman
Arthur Bowen
Estelle Wenson
Meaghan Cleary
Tony Esposito
Lisa Folloni
Karen Geraghty
Richard P. Lombardi
Ex Officio
Rev. Bill Devine
Rev. John D’Arpino
Deacon Jerry Ryan

Finance Council Members

Linda Bowen
John Higgins
John O’Donnell
Nick Palmieri
Ex Officio
Rev. Bill Devine
Rev. John D’Arpino
Deacon Jerry Ryan

A special thanks to Brian Kunz and Stephen LeClair for a job well done while they were on the Finance Council.

St. Thomas Aquinas Knights of Columbus
Contact: George Harnois, Membership Director (508)697-7359
This organization for men provides opportunities for active involvement in a local unit, or council; volunteer opportunities in the parish and community, and much more. There are only two requirements for a man to join the Knights of Columbus: that he be a practicing Catholic as understood by the Church and that he be 18 years of age or older.

A special thanks to Debbie Hill for compiling all the information about the ministries.

This Annual Report was made possible by the generosity of our Sponsors ~ please patronize their businesses.

GFT Consulting, Inc.
415 High Street
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Rick Timmerman ~ Quickbooks Professional Advisor
Ginniy Timmerman ~ Instruction in the Microsoft Office Products
Phone: 508-279-1900 Fax: 508-279-9925
Email: gftrick@aol.com
Rev. Mark Murphy's First Mass, May 21, 2011

Fr. Joe transferred — but not easily forgotten

Photos provided by Arty Artzo D
The Financial Report

This part of the Annual Report reviews the financial condition of our entire Parish including St. Thomas Church, our Cemetery, and St. Basil’s Chapel. First, I want to thank you for your kindness and generosity when it comes to the Parish. Clearly these past few years have been a financial challenge for many of our parishioners, yet the members of St. Thomas and St. Basil’s have consistently demonstrated a willingness to assist the Parish when asked. It is clear to me one of our many strengths is you and your generosity, so again, I want to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to you for your continued commitment to this Parish.

While financially we are positioned well as compared to several years ago, we continue to be challenged with a variety of expenses commensurate to our ministerial responsibilities as well as the ongoing maintenance of our properties. Since arriving at St. Thomas, I have been working closely with our Finance Committee and several parish volunteers to understand our financial history and current property needs. Some capital projects have been deferred for years while others are now beginning to require our attention. I can assure you my intention is to address these issues wisely and work closely with our Finance Council to determine our immediate needs and how best to fund these issues.

As Parishioners and primary contributors to the financial well being of our Parish, it is important to me that you see how your contributions are being put to work on behalf of the Parish. As such, within the accompanying chart you will find the final reporting for our Fiscal Year 2010-2011 (which runs from July 1 to June 30 annually).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>St Thomas</th>
<th>Cemetery</th>
<th>St Basil</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>St Thomas/Cemetery</th>
<th>St Basil</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fund Raising</td>
<td>19,738</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>19,798</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offertory</td>
<td>432,052</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>113,583</td>
<td>545,635</td>
<td>480,952</td>
<td>114,719</td>
<td>595,711</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Education</td>
<td>65,723</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>65,723</td>
<td>60,100</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>60,100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liturgical</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemetery</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>86,957</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>86,957</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Fee Cemetary</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Improvement Collection</td>
<td>37,816</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>37,816</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest/Dividend</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>4,392</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>4,449</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income/Loss on Investment</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>28,370</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>28,370</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land/Debt Relief</td>
<td>5,610</td>
<td>1,176</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,786</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental</td>
<td>34,748</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>34,748</td>
<td>30,100</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>30,100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>595,707</td>
<td>120,895</td>
<td>113,679</td>
<td>830,280</td>
<td>729,092</td>
<td>114,769</td>
<td>843,861</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Expenses                                    |           |          |          |         |                |                   |          |         |
| Clergy                                     | 54,331    | -        | -        | 54,331  | 67,640         | -                 | 67,640   |         |
| Payroll-Non Religious                      | 10,049    | 31,158   | 90,111   | 261,278 | 195,011        | 35,308            | 230,319  |         |
| Benefits                                   | 43,271    | 17,165   | 6,269    | 66,704  | 82,756         | 9,084             | 91,840   |         |
| Pastoral/Liturgical                        | 65,874    | -        | 9,041    | 74,915  | 70,000         | 12,000            | 82,000   |         |
| Capital Improvements                       | 69,529    | 845      | -        | 70,374  | 20,100         | 20,000            | 40,100   |         |
| Property/Liability Insurance               | 16,406    | -        | -        | 16,406  | 16,000         | -                 | 16,000   |         |
| Repairs and Maintenance                    | 30,240    | 27,715   | 5,883    | 63,838  | 38,100         | 3,000             | 41,100   |         |
| Office Supplies                            | 30,487    | -        | 7,618    | 38,104  | 39,000         | 10,000            | 49,000   |         |
| Utilities                                  | 39,125    | 148      | 14,709   | 53,942  | 41,789         | 15,513            | 57,303   |         |
| Management Fee                             | -         | -        | -        | -       | -              | -                 | -        |         |
| Tax                                        | 37,657    | -        | -        | 37,657  | 41,491         | -                 | 41,491   |         |
| Interest Expense                           | -         | -        | -        | -       | -              | -                 | -        |         |
| **Total Expenses**                         | 556,991   | 77,031   | 103,629  | 737,651 | 612,288        | 104,966           | 717,253  |         |
| Net Income/Loss                            | 38,716    | 43,864   | 10,049   | 92,629  | 116,884        | 9,803             | 126,607  |         |
Summary of the Financial Report

This is a brief narrative of our financial results for the Parish’s Fiscal Year 2010-2011. While the financial report suggests the Parish enjoyed good financial health last year, a closer look at the results that indicate only through significant expense reductions were we able to meet our financial goals. Our available operating cash remains very low and our weekly offertory, fund raising, and the Capital Improvement funds all fell below our budgeted expectations. Staff levels have fallen over time and it is clear that a minimal increase in part-time staff is not only warranted, but prudent. In addition, capital improvements, maintenance, and repairs to our properties continue to be a significant part of our expenditures. A reduction in revenue in combination with the costs associated with the need for staff and an increase in property expenditures require us to closely monitor our financial activity this current fiscal year.

I would personally like to thank the Parish Financial Council for their support, expertise and commitment over the past few months. In particular I would like to express my appreciation to John Higgins. Over the past year, John, in addition to his full time job, has selflessly volunteered countless hours on weeknights and weekends to maintain the Parish financial records, submit reports to the Archdiocese as well as upgrade and maintain our computers without asking for any recognition. I thank John and all who generously donate their time and talent in support of our parish.

That all would know Jesus

Father, you call each person by name and have given your only Son Jesus to reconcile us to you and to each other.
In your faithfulness, you send the Holy Spirit to complete the mission of Jesus among us.
Open our hearts to Jesus.
Give us the courage to live as followers of Christ
Help us to speak His name to all who are close to us and to share His love with all who are far away.
We pray that every person everywhere be invited to know Jesus as Savior and be made new by is infinite love.
We come to you and ask all this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Bridgewater Sports Complex
350 Bedford St.
Bridgewater, MA 02324
(508) 697-8318
www.bridgewaterdome.com

The indoor alternative for sports including soccer, field hockey, basketball, softball, lacrosse and volleyball.

The facility is also available as a rental for birthday parties.
Prophett-Chapman
Cole & Gleason

FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATION SERVICES
Family Owned and Operated Since 1862

98 Bedford Street, Bridgewater  I-508-697-4332
35 Spring Street, East Bridgewater  I-508-378-4826