

Holy Family Parish

2007 – 2008 Annual Report (July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008)

“...and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house...”

—1 Peter 2:5

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The past year marked a milestone in a process that started 10 years ago when we merged Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Parishes. On April 1, 2008, we completed the sale of the four buildings that had made up the Sacred Heart campus.

Saying goodbye to physical landmarks that hold so many memories is not easy. But we can never forget that we, not the bricks and mortar, are the Church. I can think of no better way to reflect upon the past year than by remembering 1 Peter 2:5: “and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house.” Parishioners, staff and clergy, we are the living stones of our parish, the substance from which we are creating a vibrant faith life for ourselves and future generations.

We also bid a farewell to our co-pastor, Fr. Marc Bishop. In June, Cardinal Seán asked Fr. Marc to become the pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Methuen. In his short tenure here, Fr. Marc did tremendous work in enhancing our Youth Ministry Program. We will miss his enthusiasm, devotion, and pastoral solicitude and are grateful for his ministry here.

As we look back over 2007–2008, we can be pleased with the many ways our parish family has worked to create a vibrant faith life at Holy Family Parish. This annual report contains examples of that work.

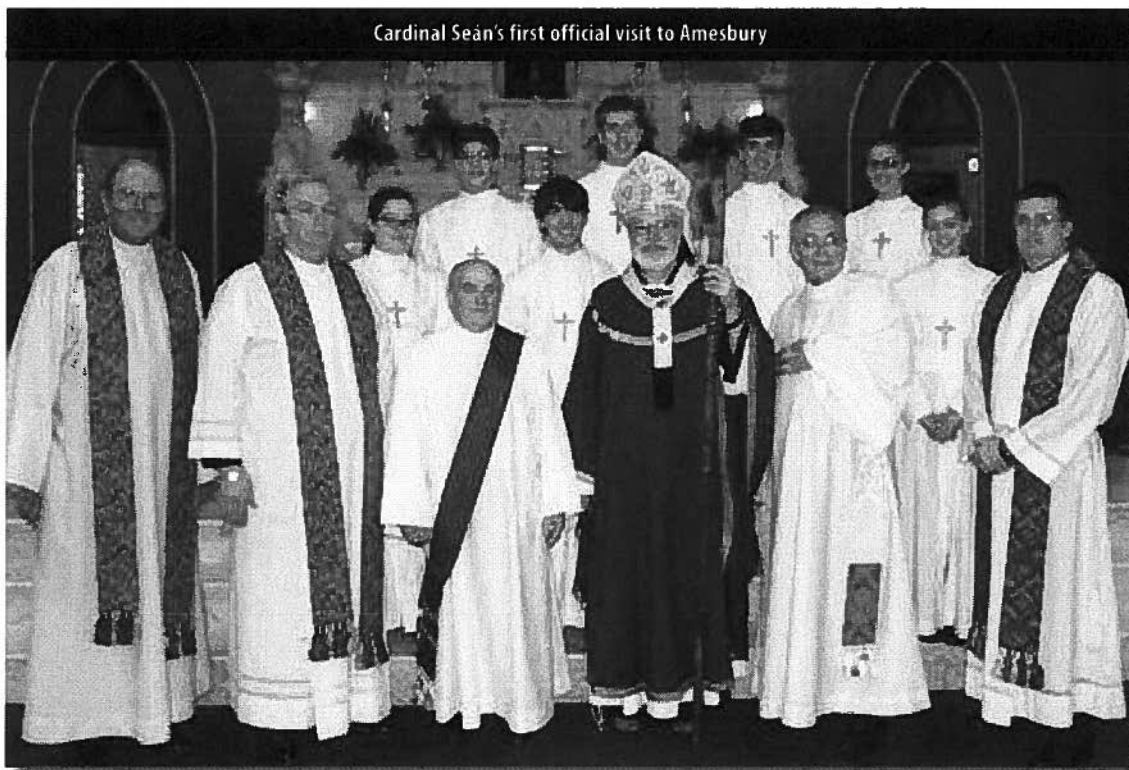
Fr. Jack

Our Ministries

Celebrating the Liturgy, Cornerstone of Our Spiritual House

As the cornerstone of a building unites two intersecting walls, the Liturgy unites our two former parishes into one.

- On August 18, 2007, we formally closed Sacred Heart Church. Our Regional Bishop, The Most Reverend Emilio S. Allué, celebrated a Liturgy of Thanksgiving. We were delighted to welcome priests who had served at Sacred Heart in the past as well as the Sisters of St. Chretienne, who had taught at the school.
- A sub-committee of the Parish Council looked at how our Liturgies could be enhanced by the musical talents of our parishioners as well as how to combine our two choirs into one. The result is that we now have one main Choir, which sings at the 10:15 Sunday Mass, and a Schola, a small musical group, which sings at the 4:00 Saturday Mass. This is in addition to the Contemporary Groups that assist at the other Masses.
- Our thanks to Thea Plitaska, a Choir director for many years, who retired in 2008. We are grateful for your long and dedicated service.



- The Memorial Mass on November 4 remembered all who had died during the year.
- On December 9, 2007, Cardinal Seán made his first official visit to Amesbury and the seacoast area. He celebrated the 10:15 Mass, energizing our parish community with his presence. Following Mass, a collation was held in the Parish Hall.
- Special events highlighted the significance of Christmas and Easter. Our young parishioners created Christmas tableaux before the 4:00 Christmas Eve Mass, and parishioners of all ages participated in our traditional Palm Sunday Procession.
- Approximately 40 people attended our Blue Christmas Prayer Service on December 30. The service was designed to support those who struggle during the Christmas Season, whether as a result of a broken relationship, divorce, isolation, or loss of a loved one. A collation was held in the Main Hall following the service.
- Our Liturgies were ably served by our Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Ministers of the Word, Ushers, Greeters, Sacristans and all the volunteers we don't see but who work to make our celebration of Mass the joy it is.
- During the past fiscal year we presided over 52 Baptisms, 67 First Holy Communions, 50 Confirmations, six Marriages and 90 Funerals. We had eight participants in the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program.

Building Our Faith, the Foundation of All We Do

Over the past year we enhanced current programs and created new opportunities for parishioners to strengthen their knowledge and understanding of our faith.

- Our Religious Education Program served 514 students from 380 families. Sixty-seven second-graders celebrated their First Communions in May, and 50 candidates received the

Sacrament of Confirmation in November. We enhanced the Confirmation Program curriculum, increasing the frequency of meetings and classes. The 2008 Confirmation Retreat, Choose Your Journey, took place in March at the Marist House in Framingham. Our thanks to the 70 catechists/facilitators who served.

- Twice during the year, in December and February, we brought a special program to the parish: LIFT: Catholic Worship for a New Generation. LIFT is a ministry in the Boston area that uses video, music and dynamic speakers to inspire young people about our faith. Each evening concluded with the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharistic Adoration.
- Our adult faith-formation programs were also greatly enhanced over the past year as Chris Moore took on the responsibility of becoming the Adult Faith Formation Coordinator. We initiated a Women's Half Day of Reflection in April and a Holy Hour of Reflection for Men in June. The WINGS (Women in God's Spirit) program met weekly from September through May. Other adult faith-formation programs included Bible Study, Encountering the Mysteries, the Charismatic Prayer Group and the Lenten Chowder Suppers.
- In May, we welcomed professional actress Anita Gutschick, who performed "Women in the Bible," a one-woman show. Approximately 120 women and men attended.

- Our ARISE: Together in Christ team took part in the Archdiocesan training program. This is the team that will be coordinating ARISE at Holy Family this fall, working with hosts/facilitators to bring the program to our parish. ARISE: Together in Christ is a three-year, parish-centered process of spiritual renewal taking place in many parishes throughout the Archdiocese beginning in the fall of 2008.

Serving Community, at Home and Abroad

Our community extends beyond our parish doors to include those in need locally and internationally. Throughout the year there were opportunities to gather as community and to serve our neighbors at home and abroad.

- Sharing 10 percent of our weekly collection, we continued to support Nativity Prep, the Office for Senior Priests at the Archdiocese of Boston, and a number of health and social-service agencies. This past year we also supported disaster relief for those affected by the earthquake that took place in China in May and the cyclone that hit Myanmar the same month. In response to a request for assistance from Most Holy Redeemer Parish in East Boston, we earmarked one of our tithes for its parish-run Crossroads Family Shelter.
- The St. Vincent DePaul Society raised close to \$25,000 to provide assistance with food, clothing, rent and utilities to local families in need.

RCIA Candidates and Sponsors at the Easter Vigil



Altar Servers



Confirmation Retreat at the Marist House



Financial Report

This section discusses our parish finances for the fiscal year 2008, which covers the period from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008.

Although it may appear that we are in good financial shape because of our record-breaking income of \$3.70 million this past fiscal year, our performance is skewed by the sale of the Sacred Heart campus and, to a lesser extent, by the restoration of our two buildings. If we back out the extraordinary income and expenses related to these events (that is, if we subtract the property-sale proceeds and the Building Fund donations, as well as the expenses incurred related to the sale, the capital campaign and the capital improvements), we are left with income of only \$630,900 versus expenses of \$792,000. As a result, instead of \$2.54 million net income shown in the table, we would have incurred a net loss of (\$161,100). This is the amount by which our regular income exceeded our daily operating expenses.

Once again, despite the careful stewardship of the resources our parishioners have entrusted to Holy Family, we find that our operating expenses exceed our operating income. At the same time, we are aware that our parishioners' own budgets are being tightened in this climate of escalating costs. We would like to share with you some background to the numbers presented in the accompanying graphs and table.

Income

Parish income for the year totaled \$3.70 million compared to \$911,200 the prior fiscal year. Offertory was \$401,200, a 2% decrease from fiscal 2007. Our Grand Annual Appeal was also down, totaling \$70,700 compared to \$82,200 the prior fiscal year.

Tithed Donations were up to \$600 compared to \$300 in 2007. Sacramental Offerings decreased to \$12,000. This source of income includes donations related to Mass stipends and flowers. Gifts and Bequests totaled \$36,200, a 34% increase over the prior fiscal year. Such gestures of extraordinary personal generosity play a major role in helping to finance the parish's operations.

Income from our Religious Education Program was \$32,700, down from \$36,700 in fiscal 2007. These funds are dispersed for program-related expenses.

Income Statement for the Fiscal Years 2006 – 2008 (July 1st – June 30th)			
	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	2008 Actual
INCOME			
Offertory	\$ 421,282	\$ 407,616	\$ 401,179
Grand Annual	68,340	82,242	70,652
Donations — Tithe	648	344	592
Sacramental Offerings	23,943	21,199	12,037
Gifts and Bequests	20,027	27,052	36,179
Religious Education	31,227	36,728	32,730
Fundraising	38,914	30,636	21,622
Building Fund — Donations	0	30,390	222,920
Building Fund — Fundraising	0	3,115	4,323
Bingo Proceeds (net)	0	0	0
Insurance Collection	16,803	6,607	0
Utilities Collection	11,037	5,463	0
Rental Income	10,147	7,630	8,475
Interest Income	13,737	9,604	27,606
Other	53,593	19,086	15,487
Sale of Property	0	223,502	2,848,797
Total Income	\$709,697	\$911,214	\$3,702,599
EXPENSES			
Compensation — Clerical	\$ 67,235	\$ 72,281	\$ 89,005
Compensation — Non-clerical	283,248	268,780	271,950
Benefits and Payroll Taxes	101,783	112,257	113,643
Household Expenses	18,031	18,752	21,856
Liturgical Supplies and Parish Community Expenditures	48,076	48,633	42,347
Pamphlets and Religious Education	6,879	14,428	16,297
Office Supplies and Professional Fees	18,475	26,708	167,331
Postage and Printing	9,990	7,540	8,267
Envelope Mailing and Contribution Processing	4,076	4,622	3,793
Telephone and Utilities	106,878	92,169	92,360
Maintenance and Repair	28,244	49,420	35,210
Capital Improvements	25,663	18,141	232,309
Fundraising	26,475	8,204	5,742
School Tax	20,000	20,000	20,000
Property and Liability Insurance	50,989	46,899	38,744
Other	9,083	4,557	6,064
Total Expenses	\$825,126	\$813,390	\$1,164,918
Net Income	\$(115,429)	\$ 97,824	\$2,537,681

Our Fundraising activities brought in \$21,600, a 29% decline from \$30,600 in the 2007 fiscal year. However, funds raised from activities carried out on behalf of our new Building Fund, along with donations made toward the fund, totaled \$227,200 compared to \$33,500 the prior fiscal year. Our parishioners can be proud of their support of Holy Family's capital campaign, which has been undertaken to finance the critically needed rehabilitation of two parish buildings.

Expenses

Total expenses for fiscal 2008 were \$1.16 million compared to \$813,400 the prior year. Compensation for Clergy and Non-clerical staff, including benefits and payroll taxes, totaled \$474,600, a 5% increase over 2007. The 5% increase is related to the increased cost in weekend clergy assistance and coverage and to the increased use of professional lay staff to continue the pastoral work of the

parish. Household Expenses climbed modestly to \$21,900 from \$18,800. A portion of Non-clerical Compensation is incurred for the upkeep of our parish cemetery. Interment fees, despite an increase in fiscal 2008, do not fully cover the operating cost of our sacred burial grounds. The parish subsidizes the cemetery by underwriting related salaries, which inflates our compensation expenditures.

Expenses related to our pastoral ministry—Liturgical Supplies and Community Expenditures, Pamphlets and Religious Education, Office Supplies and Professional Fees, Postage and Printing, and Envelope Mailing and Contribution Processing—totaled \$238,000 compared to \$101,900 in fiscal 2007. A direct comparison to the prior year is difficult because of the extraordinary fees that were incurred relating to the sale of the

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- A variety of social events engaged our young people, brought parishioners together and helped raise funds. An All Hallows Eve Movie Night took place in October. Canned goods were collected and given to Our Neighbor's Table. In March, the Youth Ministry Program ran a Coffeehouse and Talent Show fundraiser, open to all the talent in the parish. Approximately 15 acts in the areas of music, comedy and poetry were presented. And in April, the group ran a Trivia Night. Donations from both events benefited Youth Ministry.

Preserving Our Home

The following describes the work we did during the past year to preserve our spiritual home for future generations.

- On April 1, 2008, the All Saints Anglican Church bought the four buildings that had made up the Sacred Heart campus. The \$2.8 million sale price, minus associated fees, remained with the parish. As part of the agreement, we will continue to use the office building and the school building for office space until October 1, 2010, when we expect renovations of the former St. Joseph's school and convent buildings to be completed.

- On June 10, we kicked off our "One in Spirit" capital campaign. With a goal of \$1.5 million, the campaign, along with the proceeds from the sale of the Sacred Heart Campus, will pay for the renovations of the former school, which will become the new parish center, and the former convent, which will become the new office area. The buildings will be accessible to persons with disabilities and will be renovated using ecologically friendly construction materials. The chapel in the convent will also be renovated, the parking lot will be expanded, and more green space will be created

Looking Forward

Fiscal 2008 was a busy time for Holy Family. During the year, we carried out the most difficult recommendation of the Parish Reconfiguration Committee by reducing our real estate to one property. Had we not taken control of our fate, with the merger in 1998, the decision to close either Sacred Heart or St. Joseph may have been made for us by the Archdiocese, which would have negotiated the property sale and then absorbed the proceeds from the sale. By looking forward, we were able to take steps according to our own timetable and reinvest the profits from the transaction into Holy Family Parish. Also during the fiscal year, we made our last installment payment, \$291,715, on our debt and have fully reimbursed the Archdiocese for our insurance premiums. We now have a very healthy balance sheet.

As we embark on fiscal 2009, we are again faced with the prospect that our regular and recurring sources of income may not be sufficient to cover our parish's daily expenses. Our Finance Council is exploring an Increased Offertory Campaign to help us address this concern. Together, we will meet our fiscal challenges. And like the living stones of 1 Peter 2:5 let ourselves be built into a spiritual house that will serve our parish family for many years to come.

Financial Report *(continued from page 3)*

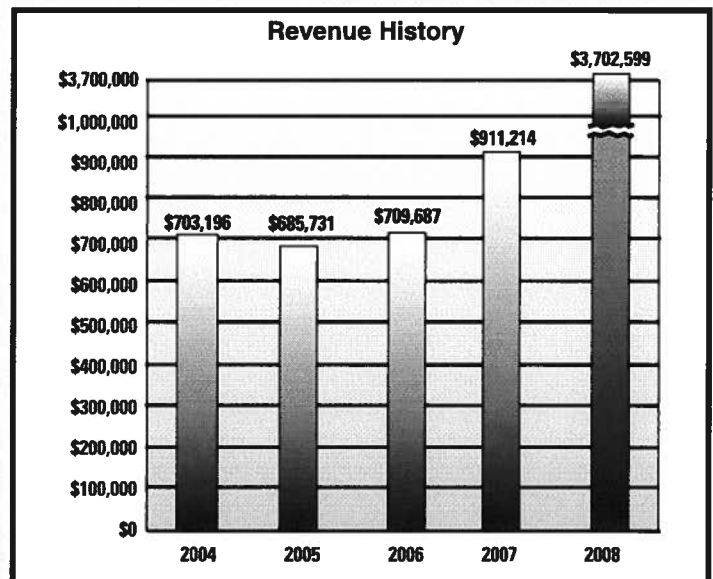
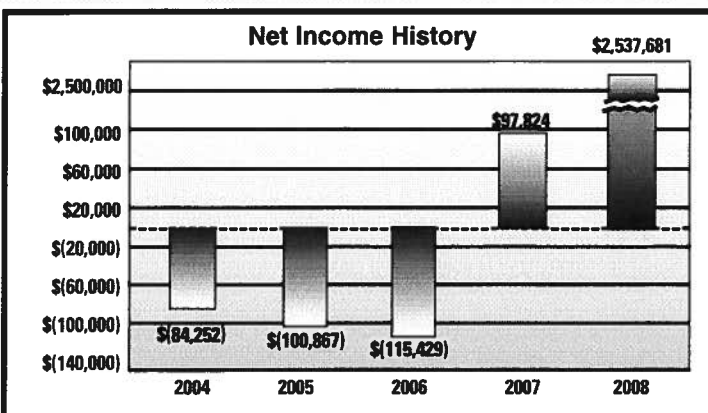
Sacred Heart property and to our Building Fund campaign. However, without these distortions, pastoral ministry expenses were close to prior-year levels.

Maintenance and Repair expenses totaled \$35,200 compared to \$49,400 as we started to undertake smaller maintenance projects that had been deferred until we received the proceeds from the sale of the Sacred Heart campus. Capital Improvements of \$232,300 reflect the restorations in progress under our Building Fund capital project.

Property and Liability Insurance declined 17% to \$38,700 as we started to see cost savings from the Sacred Heart sale.

Parish Savings

Our parish savings account holds any surpluses from Church operations, Gifts and Bequests, and special ministries. At the end of the 2008 fiscal year, it held \$2.27 million compared to \$162,925 at June 30, 2007. The increase was due primarily to the proceeds from the property sale.



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