



Saint Columbkille Parish

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2010

(JULY 1 2009 - JUNE 30, 2010)

February 15, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Saint Columbkille Parish,

I am happy to report to you on both the general and the financial situation of Saint Columbkille Parish for the period of July 1, 2009 through July 31, 2010. Let me begin with **Our Financial Situation**. Enclosed are two statements of Parish Revenues and Expenses – in English and in Spanish – for Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10). The first statement summarizes the revenue and expenses of our Operating Fund. The second does the same for our Capital Fund. Let me say a word about each of these funds and then highlight some of the important points from each statement.

There are many sources of Revenue in our Operating Fund: the Offertory Collections; the Grand Annual Collection; offerings for Memorial Masses, candles, sacramental wine and flowers; gifts and bequests to the parish; rental income (from the Charter School and the parking lot); and a few other smaller revenue sources like fees for religious education. Against this Income are our Expenses: salaries and benefits for our lay employees and clergy; household expenses; parish office expenses; pastoral and liturgical expenses; utility expenses for the church and the rectory (heat, water, etc.); and the operational costs of our buildings and grounds (insurance, maintenance and improvement).

The purpose of our Capital Fund is to provide revenue to pay for major repairs, renovations and improvements to our parish property. This fund is constituted by two accounts: a Money Market account at Peoples Federal Savings Bank and an investment account of unrestricted monies that is managed by the Archdiocese of Boston (RCAB). These accounts are funded principally by bequests and by unanticipated donations. In addition, we are committed to depositing as much of our Grand Annual Collection as possible into the Capital Fund. The Finance Council has determined that the Capital Fund will maintain a balance of at least \$75,000.00 to ensure that we have the financial resources necessary to address an emergency situation.

Highlights with respect to **Operating Fund Revenue for FY10** are as follows.

- Our FY10 revenue was higher than anticipated and our expenses were under what we budgeted them to be. This resulted in our having a year-end positive balance of \$20,225.

- We passed as much revenue as possible from our rental income and the Grand Annual through the Money Market account of our Capital Fund so that it would accrue interest until it was needed for expenses. This explains why there is a transfer of money from the Capital Fund into the Operating Fund.
- Though we have been in a recession, revenue from the Offertory Collections increased by 10.7% or \$28,641 in FY10 over FY09. This is due to your very positive response to the *Increased Weekly Giving Program* that we implemented in January of last year. As I said then, we need to grow our Offertory revenue to anticipate the large loss of annual rental income of \$169,000 from the Charter School when its lease expires. That lease is scheduled to conclude in 2014, though the Charter School has an “early termination option” and can leave in 2013.
- The “Other Income” line item represents stipends we received from the Archdiocese to support the residencies of Father Jim O’Rourke and Father Joe Keville at St. Columbkille rectory.

Highlights with respect to our **Operating Fund Expenses for FY10** are as follows.

- Both lay salaries/benefits and clergy stipends/benefits remained at FY09 levels.
- Office expenses are higher because of 1) the cost of a triennial RCAB audit (to be scheduled) is an expense for FY10 and 2) the mailing costs for the Increased Weekly Giving Program.
- Utilities and building/grounds expenses decreased because of last winter’s mild season.

Highlights with respect to our **Capital Fund Revenue and Expenses for FY10** are as follows.

- We received two bequests totaling \$14,376 during FY10. These are very precious gifts.
- During FY10 we invested \$114,850 in major repairs and improvements to our property. Each of these is listed under “Expenses” in the FY10 Capital Fund Report.
- The parish remains very grateful to the Auciello and Salvucci families for their longstanding and continuing contributions to the enhancement of our property. We express special gratitude this year to the Hoarty and Cicconi families and to Peoples Federal Savings Bank who contributed very generously to the parish during this past year. As you know, substantial gifts received are announced in the Sunday bulletin.
- Anticipated repairs and improvements to our property for FY11, some of which have already been completed, include the following:
 - Regular annual repairs to the church and rectory roofs
 - Installation of a new plaza and widened roadway between the church/rectory and school
 - Completion of the replacement fencing around the church and rectory
 - Completion of the conversion from oil to natural gas heating in the church and rectory
 - Continued work on the upgrading of the electrical system in the church and rectory
 - Repaving and adding a handicap parking space to the driveway in front of the rectory
 - New concrete stoop at the south entrance to the rectory
 - New landscaping to the front of the rectory
 - Addressing structural concerns in the concrete patio behind the rectory
 - Renovating the lower church into a chapel and hall

As I noted above, the Increased Weekly Giving Program that was implemented in the parish in January 2010 has been and will, I hope, continue to be a great help towards strengthening our parish revenue. We anticipate that your current increased giving will bring an added \$50,000 revenue a year to our operating budget. But, since we will lose \$169,000 annual revenue in 2014 with the loss of our Charter School rent, we still have a way to go in order to ensure that we will have the revenues we

need to sustain our parish. For that reason, I want to offer three suggestions to help strengthen the financial life of the parish.

First, if you were able to increase your weekly offering to the parish last year, I encourage you to keep giving at that level. If you were not able to increase your giving last year, but can now, I encourage you to move to a higher level of giving – perhaps adding \$5 or \$7 or even \$10 to what you have been giving per week. If you can do this, I would be very grateful if you would write me a little note letting me know that you have taken this step. As always, you have my heartfelt thanks for your commitment to your parish and for your generosity.

Second, frequently someone asks me for a suggestion concerning what would be an appropriate weekly offering to support our annual parish budget. The Finance Council recommends, as a guideline, that every working person in the parish make an offering of \$25.00 per week. I want to underscore the word guideline. Some of you can and do make an offering that is greater, sometimes much greater, than \$25.00 per week. For that, the Parish is greatly blessed and deeply grateful; you are giving what you can give. Others, for very good reasons, find this goal impossible and give something less. For that, the Parish is greatly blessed and deeply grateful; you are giving what you can give. Know that I am very much edified by your desire to support your parish and I am deeply grateful for your generosity.

Third, some of the larger gifts that have been received by the parish have come through bequests, which are donations made to St. Columbkille at the time of a parishioner's death. Often the family of a loved one will recommend, in lieu of flowers, that a donation to the parish be made in memory of the deceased. In recent years, this practice has been increasing and has been of great benefit to the parish. I encourage its growth and I thank you for considering it.

In addition, parishioners are choosing to remember St. Columbkille Parish in their wills. You should know that much of the great work that has taken place in the renovation of our property these past few years has been a direct result of the generosity of parishioners who have remembered us in their wills. These bequests are a wonderful way to secure the faith for future generations. A simple statement in your will like for following is all it takes: "I give the sum of \$ _____ to the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston, a Corporation Sole, to be used for the benefit of St. Columbkille Parish, 321 Market Street, Brighton, Massachusetts." Thank you for considering this possibility.

As I close this section on finances, I am happy to remind you that the parish carries no debt. This is indeed a great blessing.

There are **A NUMBER OF OTHER PARISH MATTERS** that I would like to bring to your attention.

Perhaps the most poignant moment for us this past year was the illness and death of our beloved Senior Priest, **Father James O'Rourke** on June 21, 2010. You know well the gifts that Father Jim O'Rourke brought to the life of the parish. His presence in the house, for those of us who lived and worked with him, was a complete joy. His love of God and neighbor, his delight in the small things in life – especially children, and his great sense of humor were a few of the more notable gifts that he brought to our common life. He was a special person indeed. Until the Lord gathers us together again... *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. Amen.*

There is very good news regarding **St. Columbkille Partnership School**. The school year began in September 2010 with great excitement, because the school enrollment went over 300 students for the first time since 1982. This success is directly attributable to the vitality of the Partnership between the Archdiocese of Boston and Boston College. I am deeply grateful to the extraordinary commitments that Cardinal Seán O'Malley and Father William Leahy, SJ, the President of Boston College, have made towards guaranteeing the success of our school. Our children are the beneficiaries of some great things happening at the school these days. May God bless their growth in education and in the faith.

In November 2010 we completed the fifth and last season of the ***ARISE Together in Christ*** spiritual process. This program took place during Lent and the fall of the past two and one-half years. It involved small groups of 10-12 persons who gathered in a parishioner's home once a week to listen to the Sacred Scriptures, to reflect with one another upon the Lord's word, and to talk about practical ways of putting that word into action. Approximately 65-70 parishioners committed themselves to each season of the ARISE process. Their faithfulness to this program was a great benefit to themselves and to the parish. The Worship Commission of the Parish Pastoral Council, one of the three commissions of our council, is now exploring other ways in which similar opportunities for spiritual growth might be offered in the parish in the future. One opportunity, similar to *ARISE*, is a program called "Lenten Longings." More on this will appear in the parish bulletin during the coming weeks.

Speaking of the **Parish Bulletin**, I remind you that our bulletin is always available to you at our parish website, www.brightoncatholic.org. There is a lot of other news about the parish available at the website by clicking the links on our home page. I am also happy to report that, thanks to the good work of Father Dan Moloney, Caroline McGowan and Alfred Yip, the website will undergo a significant facelift in the next few months. We look forward to presenting the transformation to you.

We have been working this year towards the strengthening of the **Religious Education** of our youngsters and their families. Religious Education classes have been coordinated with the Sunday 9:30 AM Mass (for English speaking families) and the 12:45 PM Mass (for Spanish speaking families) so that our young families will come to treasure the Sunday Eucharist as the center of their week. As an added incentive to draw more families to our 9:30 AM Sunday Mass, we have introduced a **Liturgy of the Word for children**. Just before the Scripture Readings are proclaimed, children from ages 5-9 are invited to go to the lower church for their own reading of the Scriptures and for catechesis. Parents and children have been responding well to this new initiative. In addition, I have asked Father Dan Moloney to reconstitute the Religious Education Commission, a second commission of our Parish Pastoral Council, in order in order that it might bring greater vitality to the faith formation of all of the members of our parish, children through seniors.

For **Our 18-35 Year-Old Young Adults** we are continuing the "Theology on Tap" evenings at the Green Briar in Brighton Center on a regular basis. For each gathering, a featured speaker is invited to address a current topic in our faith in order to engage those gathered in good discussion. These gatherings have been well received by those who have made the commitment to join them and I am grateful to Father Moloney for coordinating them.

First Fridays of the month have been enhanced in recent years with the addition of Eucharistic Adoration following the 9:00 AM First Friday Mass. This Adoration, which has as its intention the increase in vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life, concludes at 12:00 Noon with Benediction. We encourage you to join us for some prayerful and grace-filled time before the Blessed Sacrament. There is a great benefit to putting some time aside to be alone in the presence of the Lord.

We are very grateful for **Our Many Parish Groups of Men and Women** who gather for the good of the parish and the Church. I think, for example, of the great works of the Sodality, the Legion of Mary, the Catholic Daughters of America, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Knights of Columbus and our Weekly Prayer Groups (English and Spanish). In September, the St. Vincent DePaul Society held a very successful second annual Yard Sale to raise funds for their worthy work. The Knights of Columbus gathered at the church in October for their Annual Memorial Mass for their deceased. If you would like more information to join any of these groups, please call Patricia McShane, our parish secretary, at the rectory (617-782-5774).

In addition to the Worship and the Religious Education Commissions of the Parish Pastoral Council, the newest commission of our Parish Pastoral Council is the **Parish Outreach Commission**. As your pastor I have been very concerned about the large number of Catholics in Brighton who do not practice their faith. Many of our brothers and sisters left their active participation in the Church because of the sexual abuse crisis. Once again, I apologize from my heart and I express my deepest sorrow to any one who was abused as a child by a priest or by anyone else acting in the name of the Church. What happened to you was wrong. I am deeply sorry and I ask your forgiveness. Many others left because of the hurtful ways in which Our Lady of the Presentation and St. Gabriel parishes were closed. I apologize for the pain that so many of you experienced. I am deeply sorry and I ask your forgiveness.

Whatever the reason that someone becomes alienated from the Church, the fact is, Christ came among us that that we might know him and live together in him. The Lord doesn't just give us a Gospel by which to live. But, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit, he forms us into one body, one communion, the Church. We belong together in God.

The purpose of our new Parish Outreach Commission, still in its early stages, is threefold:

- To develop and initiate an effective outreach program that both invites back members of the parish who have been distanced from the Church, and identifies and invites Catholics moving into the area to join our parish;
- To develop parish programs and events that deepen our identity as a community in Christ and provide an opportunity to strengthen our outreach by welcoming newcomers;
- To identify and engage with those events in our local community that present an opportunity for us to promote our activities and programs while supporting the greater community.

The goal of our Parish Outreach Commission is to make contact with every household in Brighton in the next few years. Pray for our good work and its success. If you have ideas for us, let us know.

Sacraments to the Infirm and the Elderly. One of our great desires is that the Sacrament of the Sick, Penance, and Holy Communion be readily available to our infirm and elderly. If you are aware of someone who is homebound and in need of these Sacraments, please call us to arrange a visit.

The **Protection of Our Children** is among our highest priorities. Every member of the parish staff and every parish volunteer is educated in recognizing behavior that can be harmful to children. Moreover, every staff member and volunteer who has the potential for unmonitored access to children must undergo an annual screening of their CORI (criminal offender record information). I am very grateful to all of you for all that you do to ensure the protection of our children.

I am profoundly thankful for the gift that each of our **Staff and Volunteers** is to the life and to the good of the parish. This past July when we invited the staff and volunteers to come together for an

annual picnic, I was delighted to learn that the invitation list had grown to more than 160. Know that I am deeply grateful for what each and every one of you are doing in the building up of this great parish.

In concluding, I want to say a word of heartfelt thanks to two special groups of parishioners. First, let me express my gratitude to the members of our **Parish Finance Council**. These good parishioners assist me very well in the oversight of our resources by offering invaluable insight and counsel concerning the financial life of the Parish. Currently, Inga Ball, Hugh Gallagher, Dan Mee, Mike O'Hara and John Reen serve on the Finance Council. Orlando Ginarte serves as our business manager.

My gratitude goes as well to the members of our **Parish Pastoral Council**. The collective wisdom, prudence, energy and foresight of this dedicated group of fellow parishioners is quite remarkable and a gift for which we all need to be thankful. Currently the members of the Council are: Father Dan Moloney, Yariela Brandao, Michael Buckley, Peg Collins, David Franks, Charlie Lydon, Kevin Montague, Alexandra Montes McNeil, Kathy Moore, Blanca Ocampo, Ramon Palacio, Clement Pinto, John Reen, Maureen Reen, Claudia Rufo and Benjamin Wu.

Finally, I express my thanks to **the Priests of the Parish** with whom I have the duty and the privilege of serving the Lord. I am grateful to Father Daniel Moloney and to Father Boštjan Toplikar for their priestly example, their ready counsel and their selfless service to the parish. Their presence together in the house has been a great blessing for me, and I hope for all of us. I also thank Father Carney Gavin who you know has been convalescing this past year. His active presence among us this past year and his priestly service to us have been greatly missed. We look forward to his taking his place again in our midst at the Eucharistic table. Keep him and his intentions in your prayers. I thank Father Jose Ruisanchez for the great service he offers to the parish in his work with our Hispanic community. And I welcome Monsignor Jim Moroney to the parish and to the common life of the rectory. We are very blessed that all of these good priests share so generously with us the gifts that the Lord and the Church have given.

I hope you have found the information in this letter helpful. Naturally, I would be happy to answer any questions you might have, whether in person as you see me around the parish, or by telephone or appointment. Thank you very much for the attention you have given to this letter, and may God continue to bless you and your loved ones richly.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



Rev. Msgr. William P. Fay, Ph.D.
Pastor

Enclosures: FY10 Operating Budget Revenues and Expenses (English and Spanish)
FY10 Capital Fund Revenues and Expenses (English and Spanish)