

St. Stephen Rectory
221 CONCORD STREET
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 01702

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

We write to you at this time in light of the economic crisis facing our nation. We wish to offer our prayerful support to you, the parishioners of Saint Stephen, many of whom find yourselves in a great time of uncertainty.

The economic unrest that has visited us will continue to have a serious impact on the people of the nation. We know that some families have already lost their homes. It was recently announced that two trillion of retirement savings have been lost and the savings of many more are at risk. Hundreds of thousands have lost their jobs or benefits or both. Others may experience these losses in the coming weeks and months. Throughout our society many are increasingly concerned about their ability to provide for their family's basic needs.

During times like this many Catholics, as well as others of good will, often reassess their primary values and core beliefs. For many the opportunity exists to rediscover a life of trust in God, of simple choices, or the blessings of a family life. At this time we find ourselves in a unique position to offer the assurances of the great treasury of Christian tradition, which continues to assert what we have always believed: that our ultimate hope lies in our relationship with the Lord and that our principal virtues are faith, hope and love. This is a very timely message indeed.

We present to you the budget for our upcoming year knowing that our faith community here at Saint Stephen must also give witness to one of the ancient signs of the holiness of our Church, that of generosity. We all are inspired by the description of the early Christian community in the Acts of the Apostles, where we read how the early Christian community devoted themselves to prayer and the communal life, paying special attention to the needs of the poor. (Acts 2:42-47)

We want to assure you that we feel the urgency of conserving the resources of all of you, our parishioners, who make free will offerings, gifts to the Lord and his Church, in Christian generosity. As we are all asked to

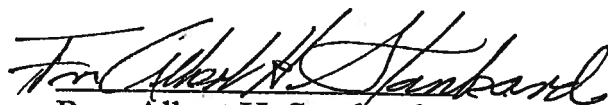
give generously to the Lord and his Church, each of us also has a role to play in carefully stewarding the gifts of the people of God.

We are still going ahead with our plans to restore the air conditioner in Church for the summer, as well as much needed improvements to our buildings. But we assure you that we will continue to exercise prudence in approving new projects, and we will continue to exercise great fiscal constraint in our operations.

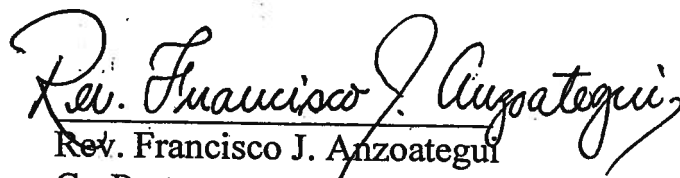
Saint Stephen Parish has always been attentive to the needy among us. It is our hope that the efforts of our parish Saint Vincent the Paul Society, Food Pantry workers, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters of America and other existing parish groups, will bring solace and genuine relief to vulnerable parishioners.

We both sincerely appreciate all that you are doing to strengthen the spiritual and communal vitality of our parish. Once again, please be assured of our prayers in these challenging times.

Every prayerful best wish,



Rev. Albert H. Stankard
Co-Pastor



Rev. Francisco J. Anzoategui
Co-Pastor

SAINT STEPHEN PARISH
INCOME AND EXPENSES
 July 1 through June 30

INCOME	<u>2008 Actual</u>	<u>2009 Budget</u>
OFFERTORY	206,835	250,000
SPIRITUAL HOME COLLECTION	33,961	36,000
SACRAMENTAL OFFERING	13,591	12,000
GIFTS & BEQUESTS	1,000	1,000
DONATIONS	43,159	25,000
DIOCESAN COLLECTIONS	29,173	29,200
RENTAL	309,543	267,060
OTHER	19,257	14,000
TOTAL INCOME	<u>656,519</u>	<u>634,260</u>
EXPENSES		
COMPENSATION (Salaries and Stipends)	212,233	213,900
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	46,543	53,300
HOUSEHOLD	9,639	10,600
OFFICE EXPENSES	25,694	27,000
Books, missalettes, telephone, weekly envelopes, postage, etc		
FACILITIES		
Utilities & Heat	37,694	50,000
Property/ Liability Insurance	18,233	19,000
Maintenance	138,077	90,800
PASTORAL/LITURGICAL		
Altar Supplies	4,742	5,000
Hospitality	5,650	6,000
Music	15,563	16,000
Flowers & Church Decorations	2,110	2,200
Hospital Chaplin	2,650	3,000
Charitable Works	2,485	3,000
Meetings & Workshops	1,873	2,000
SITE IMPROVEMENTS	10,404	10,000
EQUIPMENT & FURNISHINGS	32,033	40,000
BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	0	3,000
SCHOOL ASSESSMENT	8,908	9,000
MISCELLANEOUS	6,314	7,000
TRANSFER DIOCESAN COLLECTIONS	29,173	29,200
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$610,019</u>	<u>\$600,000</u>
NET INCOME	\$46,500	\$34,260