My brothers and sisters,

I am pleased to present our Parish Annual Report for this past Fiscal Year. This report covers the period of my first year here at St. Francis of Assisi. I hope it will be the first of many.

Because this was a year of transition for both the School and Parish communities, we were not too aggressive in tackling many large projects at once. I felt it was important to spend my time and energy getting to know you first. My main motto is, “People, not things.” Now that I have settled in a bit I can focus a little more on Parish and School Stewardship.

For the parish side (which includes Religious Education) we are meeting our obligations at the moment. The key is your commitment to the parish community. I challenge all to support the parish generously with the threefold gifts that are the hallmarks of good stewardship: TIME, TALENT and TREASURE. The Staff, the Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Finance Council, and I work together to manage these resources well and to keep St. Francis of Assisi Parish vibrant and moving forward.

The main support for School operations comes from tuition. A major focus of this coming school year, however, will be to reach out for more aggressive fundraising for things like tuition assistance, capital improvements, and other school priorities beyond day-to-day operations. I also want to strengthen the relationship of St. Francis of Assisi Parish and St. Francis of Assisi School. We do nothing more important than open the doors of faith to our children. In School and Religious Education we want those entrusted to our care to have the best experience possible.

I am inspired by you and your commitment to the Church’s life. Let us continue to keep St. Francis of Assisi alive as a great center of Catholic worship, education and daily living.

In His service and yours,

Fr. Paul T. Clifford
Dear members of our parish family,

Whether you make regular or occasional donations to our pantry, whether those donations come from the supermarket or from your wallet, we thank you! Our food pantry exists because of your generosity—we re-stock our shelves because you remember to shop for us, we offer limited financial assistance to those who qualify because you use our blue envelopes, and individuals and families have a place to turn where they are reminded of God’s love and that of their neighbors. God bless you and your loved ones always!

With heartfelt gratitude,
The St. Vincent DePaul Conference of St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Since 2009 our parish has had the good fortune to host a SMA (Society of African Missions) priest. Their Mission is primary evangelization, bringing the Gospel to the less privileged people in areas where the Gospel has not yet been proclaimed. Over the course of our relationship with the SMAs we have been blessed to have, Fr. Patrice Dousoumou, Fr. Gustave Kotubety, Fr. James Shimbala, Fr. Daniel Louh, and (this year) Fr. Emmanuel Zinsu, minister to the people of St. Francis of Assisi during the months of July and August. Each of them came from a different area of Africa and shared their unique experiences and personalities with us. The one common experience they shared was the warm welcome and generosity of the people of St. Francis of Assisi Parish. Our parish and their home parishes have benefitted from this affiliation both spiritually and, for the parishes in Africa, financially. We wish Fr. Patrice, Fr. Gustave, Fr. James, Fr. Daniel and Fr. Emmanuel continued success and good health and look forward to seeing them again, when they return to America. As Fr. Gustave would say “The Lord is good all the time!”

Prayer Shawl Ministry

"Every lovingly crafted stitch contains a simple prayer—That God will send his peace to you and keep you in his care."

This simple prayer, or one like it, has been attached to the hundreds of prayer shawls created by the parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi over the past several years. Our beautiful shawls have comforted the sick, dying and grieving and also wrapped around the shoulders of a new parent and kept warm a sleeping infant. Thanks in no small part to the time and talent of a very dedicated parishioner, those who knit and crochet come together in our church hall twice monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 7PM and the 3rd Thursday at 12:30PM for an hour of quiet music, prayer and soft conversation. Yarn and assistance are in plentiful supply, and the time passes quickly. The group welcomes everyone—novice or expert, and the need for shawls is constant. If you are looking for a simple, low-commitment way to use your time and talent and to make a difference in someone’s life, please consider the prayer shawl ministry. Please call the parish office or watch the bulletin for more information.
Reflecting back over the past year as Director of Religious Education...

"Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God." (2 Cor 10: 6, 11)

It is with a heart full of gratitude that I reflect back on the past year—the Year of Faith—for the bounty of gifts that has been so generously given and shared by our now tried and true Pastor and by our parishioners, families, young people and volunteers in their donations of time, talent and treasure to build up our Saint Francis of Assisi Parish family, the Church and the world! It is with wonder and awe that I consider the return for all of that generosity in the many ways that God has so abundantly blessed us! Knowledge, experience, and the practice of the Catholic faith, as well as the physical and spiritual well-being of our parish, the Braintree community, and each one of us, has grown and been enriched through the offerings. We have been blessed by God’s grace in a measure far beyond the initial giving! Successful weekly and bi-monthly religious education classes as well as community service initiatives including both Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy have produced much fruit. New outreach efforts have included students and adults preparing and serving meals at the Braintree Food Pantry, students leading a Thanksgiving Family Rosary night, collecting and preparing 15 large baskets at Thanksgiving, distributed to needy families by the SFA St. Vincent de Paul program, and a visit to the Kindred Rehab to sing Christmas carols. In addition, there were three Confirmation celebrations during the past year for a total of 116 young people receiving Confirmation. The Sacraments of First Penance and First Communion were given to 115 boys and girls in small groups at fourteen regular Masses. It was also with great joy that we celebrated four of our students and one adult who received recognition for their leadership and witness to faith by way of Awards presented by the Office of New Evangelization, Archdiocese of Boston, this past spring. Truly we have been blessed! Thanks be to God!

Lynne Jensen, DRE

Members of the Parish Staff

Pastor
Fr. Paul Clifford

Senior Priest
Fr. Bob Milling

Pastoral Associate
Linda Muldoon

School Principal
Brian Cote

Business Manager
Rick Timmerman

Religious Education
Lynne Jensen
Director
Diane Hopkins
Secretary

Director of Music
Deacon Joe MacDonald

Office Manager
Patty Kinelly

Maintenance and Security
Jim Quinlan
Fr. Bill Dunn went home to our Lord on May 20 after a brief illness. Fr. Bill was assigned to St. Francis of Assisi by Blessed John XXIII National Seminary as a Seminarian Intern and Transitional Deacon in 2005 and 2006. He was ordained to the Archdiocese of Boston on May 27, 2006 and celebrated his first Mass at SFA the following day. Although his assignments took him elsewhere, he continued to return to our parish and celebrate daily Mass here on his days off. We miss his presence and his quick wit.

“Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.”

When I first moved to Braintree in 1985 I looked for a church to attend. My search was not a long one for when I entered St. Francis of Assisi church I knew that I was “home.” I became active in the parish from teaching CCD to helping Fr. Sheehy with the food pantry. As time went by, thanks to the example of the priests here, I began to discern a calling to serve more.

I applied to the Permanent Diaconate Program and with the support of Fr. Crowley and Fr. Laughlin entered the four year formation program. As I progressed I felt a deeper calling and with the help of Fr. Sepe made the “big leap.” I was accepted at Blessed John Seminary in Weston and entered in the year 2000, after retiring from my teaching career in Boston after 35 years. My first Mass was at St. Francis in 2004. My first assignment was in Holbrook followed by two years in Lynnfield and four years in Plymouth.

Health issues brought me to the point of retirement. I was not ready to stop and requested senior priest status. Lo and behold the new director of Priest Support was Fr. Sepe. So here I am! It has been a joy these past months reconnecting with all of you and especially being in the school working with the kids. Thank you for welcoming me “home.” Special thanks to Fr. Paul for his support.

In Christ’s Love,
Fr. Bob Milling

For the past few years, our parish has provided a BEREAVEMENT GROUP, a place where men and women grieving the loss of a family member or friend have the opportunity to listen to each other’s stories and to share memories along with hopes, dreams, needs, fears and advice. The format switches back and forth between weeks as a drop-in (casual) group and weeks as a closed (structured) group in order to help as many people as possible in an environment of faith, compassion, empathy, respect and confidentiality. Our bereavement group meets most Tuesdays from 1-2:30PM in the church hall. Some group members return, some move on, some remain in contact with each other and chat or socialize away from the group. Our facilitators include a hospice-trained bereavement leader, a neonatal intensive care nurse and the pastoral associate from our parish. As one member states, “It’s not a club you choose to join, but it helps to know you are not alone.” Please call the parish office or watch the bulletin for more information.
Saint Francis of Assisi School

As I reflect on my first year as principal of Saint Francis of Assisi School, I am so grateful to our entire parish and school communities (Father Paul, the parish staff, faculty and staff, school board members, parents, and parishioners) for your continued prayers, support and collaboration in making the transition seamless and always working towards our shared goal of providing the best possible Catholic education for our students. Personally, it has been my privilege and honor to have been chosen to serve as the spiritual and instructional leader of this extraordinary faith-filled school community. It was an absolutely rewarding, successful and fantastic academic school year and I am enthusiastic, energized and eager to continue to lead Saint Francis of Assisi School in serving our families in the spiritual, academic and social development of their children. Together, we remain dedicated and committed to these children and to the Christ-centered vision of our school.

Brian M. Cote

Since arriving at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in late May I have had the opportunity of meeting many of you in person and, I look forward to meeting many more as I continue my year at St. Francis. So far it has been a wonderful experience being part of this parish, this community.

Being assigned to St. Francis for my final year in the seminary will afford me the opportunity I need, and desire, to continue to grow from an educational and practical standpoint. I’ll continue my educational studies at Blessed John XXIII Seminary. Along with this I have started my practical education here at St. Francis. For the summer, and the entire academic year, I will participate in all aspects of parish ministry. Working alongside Fr. Paul, Fr. Bob and Fr. Mark I will be involved in weekday and weekend Masses, attending and ministering at wakes and funerals, weddings and baptisms. I will also participate in many of the other ministries including St. Vincent de Paul, baptismal prep classes, bereavement ministry and teaching and helping out at the school come the fall.

As important as the educational studies are, the practical education I will receive here at St. Francis will be instrumental in leading me to my Deaconate Ordination in January 2014 and, if God’s will, my Priestly Ordination in May 2014. How fortunate I am to be part of this wonderful parish. I know that I am in good hands with this parish community.

God Bless.
Jeffrey Archer

Please remember in your prayers all members of our parish family, their friends and relatives, and all men and women currently serving in the Armed Forces.

US AIR FORCE
Brian Benestad
Mark Hannigan
Susan Lewandowski

US ARMY
Christopher Colpitts
Timothy Egan
Jared Fontaine
Charles McConley
Kevin O’Boyle
Rory Opanasets
Eric Small
John Sousa
Garrett Sylvia
Brian Timulty
Gregory Torrey

US ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
Andrew Leitao
Matthew Turner

US COAST GUARD
Anthony Collucci
Michael Probst

US MARINES
Andre Dalton
Ed Hurley
Adam Hutchinson
Jamey Kerr
Matthew Small
Arthur Torrey

US NAVY
Kevin Cavicchi
Jeff Chunglo
Ryan Connors
Bridget Riordan
Joseph Sturges
William Walsh
Parish Financial Report
July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

This fiscal year was a year of transition not only to a new Pastor but also a new Principal. I am happy to report, on behalf of the Finance Council, that the transition went very smoothly. Fr. Paul met a number of times with the council to help him fully understand the historical financial condition of the parish and to plan the operating budget and capital budget for the new fiscal year.

The accompanying charts illustrate the actual expenses vs. the budget projection for the fiscal year that ended in June 2013. You can see that in most areas we were able to stay within our budget figures. The winter had a significant impact on our offertory collections since on some weekends parishioners could not get to Mass due to the snowfall. I remind you that we do have an electronic funds offertory program available, simply call the parish office.

Our elevator annex loan has been paid in full from our common investment fund. Due to an improved financial market our investment fund gained about $40,500 and we closed the fiscal year with a balance of nearly $409,000.

We were able to make $60,000 of loan payments on the Tenney Rd. parking lot which reduced the principal balance to about $126,000 which we hope to pay off within the next 2-3 years.

We did not complete a lot of major projects in this year of transition but we did expend about $11,700 to renovate some of the interior rooms of the rectory. We plan to complete a number of major projects in the near future which can be funded from our savings of this year. Some of those projects include stucco repair and painting of the church exterior, replacement of exterior rectory doors, and gutter and soffit work on the rectory to name a few.

Mr. Cote, school principal, met frequently with me and the Pastor on school financial issues and the school had another successful year. iPads were made available to grades 4-8 for the first time. This project cost more than we anticipated but we felt it very important to provide the students the opportunity to stay up to date with rapidly changing technology.

Fr. Paul, the Finance Council and I wish to thank everyone for their contributions of time, talent and treasure which allow us to do so much on your behalf. If there are any questions regarding this financial update please email the business office at rtimmerman@sfab.org.

Submitted by: Rick Timmerman, Business Manager
## St. Francis of Assisi Parish
### Parish Operating Report FY2012-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Offertory Collection</td>
<td>562,790</td>
<td>604,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sacramental</td>
<td>37,196</td>
<td>33,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Annual</td>
<td>73,625</td>
<td>72,000</td>
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<td>Gifts and Bequests</td>
<td>23,260</td>
<td>10,800</td>
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<td>Religious Education</td>
<td>40,469</td>
<td>47,500</td>
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<td>Interest</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>120</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>6,800</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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<td>Catholic Appeal Rebate</td>
<td>114,951</td>
<td>112,720</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>31,861</td>
<td>29,340</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>890,830</td>
<td>919,780</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church &amp; Rectory Staff Compensation</td>
<td>219,507</td>
<td>220,527</td>
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<td>Clergy Compensation, Assigned and Unassigned</td>
<td>77,003</td>
<td>87,441</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religious Education Compensation</td>
<td>66,975</td>
<td>64,763</td>
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<td>Benefits &amp; Payroll Taxes</td>
<td>91,555</td>
<td>93,049</td>
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<td>Office Supply, Professional Fees, Subscriptions</td>
<td>11,568</td>
<td>9,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone, Utilities, Heat, Water &amp; Sewer</td>
<td>45,943</td>
<td>60,745</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property &amp; Liability Insurance</td>
<td>10,842</td>
<td>10,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buildings &amp; Grounds, Maintenance/Contracts/Supplies</td>
<td>60,289</td>
<td>72,360</td>
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<td>Books/Pamphlets, Missalettes, Pilot</td>
<td>6,085</td>
<td>9,250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Printing, Postage, Weekly Envelopes</td>
<td>10,568</td>
<td>11,538</td>
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<tr>
<td>Household Supplies and Food</td>
<td>25,613</td>
<td>24,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pastoral/Liturgical Supplies</td>
<td>24,348</td>
<td>26,873</td>
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<td>Religious Education Program Expenses</td>
<td>46,079</td>
<td>52,460</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church Charitable Works</td>
<td>41,407</td>
<td>60,430</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising Expenses</td>
<td>5,674</td>
<td>7,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer to School for Support</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meetings, Conferences, &amp; Misc. Items</td>
<td>4,732</td>
<td>5,110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Ministry Tithe</td>
<td>32,544</td>
<td>32,544</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>810,732</td>
<td>878,590</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gain over Expenses</td>
<td>80,098</td>
<td>41,190</td>
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## School Operating Report FY2012-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuitions</td>
<td>1,761,054</td>
<td>1,856,380</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising and Other Income</td>
<td>231,864</td>
<td>224,900</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>1,992,918</td>
<td>2,081,280</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff Compensation &amp; Benefits</td>
<td>1,417,787</td>
<td>1,510,163</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational Program Expenses</td>
<td>257,415</td>
<td>219,420</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facility Expenses &amp; Capital Improvements</td>
<td>294,354</td>
<td>316,500</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>1,969,556</td>
<td>2,046,083</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gain over Expenses</td>
<td>23,362</td>
<td>35,197</td>
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