



## Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Annual Report 2008-2009

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Family is alive and vibrant in so many ways. The success of the *ARISE* program has energized our spiritual life. Our senior, physically challenged, and young family members continue to benefit from the new elevator and wonder how we ever lived without it! We are formalizing plans to expand our off street parking. St. Francis of Assisi School has added of two modular classrooms in the auditorium /cafeteria. Our youth ministry/confirmation program has been reanimated by Fr. Colarusso. We have revived our RCIA program due to an increased interest in the Catholic faith. The upkeep and maintenance of our facilities is ongoing and faithfully attended to by our competent staff and volunteers. Our St. Vincent de Paul Society addresses an ever increasing number of requests for assistance. This group and our Christian Service Commission offer us many opportunities to reach out to the needy of our parish and community.

Our parish continues to contribute 10% of our weekly collection to Church, religious and social service organizations as part of our commitment to tithing. Tithing is the biblical based spiritual offering in the name of God to the Church or to the underprivileged. Many of our parishioners have embraced tithing as a way of giving back to God a small percentage of what God has gifted upon us. Everything we have is a gift from God. In the gospel of Matthew {6:20-21} our Lord said, "Store up treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroy, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is there also will your heart be."

The economy continues to have a negative impact on many families. We are most grateful to you that in spite of this our weekly offertory has remained fairly stable, although less than anticipated. As you are well aware, however, ordinary operating costs continue to increase. We look forward with great hopefulness to the success of this year's grand annual appeal.

We at St. Francis of Assisi have so much for which to be grateful. This is the fiftieth anniversary of our parochial school. We are proud of the long tradition of educational excellence in both faith and academics that we provide to the parish and the wider community. The effectiveness of our parish and school is due to the dedicated cooperation of so many parishioners, volunteers, parents, teachers and principals over these past fifty years.

The Holy Father has also dedicated 2009/2010 as the Year for Priests. We remember the faith and dedication of so many good priests who have served our parish for over 100 years.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Kevin M. Sepe



## St. Francis of Assisi Parishioners *ARISE* Together in Christ

As you read this, many members of our parish family are preparing to travel "In the Footsteps of Christ," the theme of Season Three of *ARISE* Together in Christ. With the full support of Fr. Sepe, *ARISE* has immersed us in a process of spiritual renewal and evangelization, primarily through small faith sharing groups of 6-12 people that meet on site as well as in parishioner homes during each of five 6-week "seasons." We had a wonderful response to last fall's initial season, "Encountering Christ Today;" and the number of participants increased by 50% for our Lenten season, "Change Our Hearts." On Saturday, June 6, many *ARISE* participants worshipped together at the 4:00PM Mass and then enjoyed a dinner by Fasano's Catering in the church hall. What a glorious celebration of faith-sharing and camaraderie!

At the request of Cardinal Sean, *ARISE* was designed specifically for the Archdiocese of Boston by RENEW International in order to form a renewed community of faith, to welcome back those who may have been distanced from the Church, and to spread the

Good News through active commitment to charity and justice.

Here at the parish level, *ARISE* enables us to deepen our faith, develop a closer relationship with Christ, grow in community and reach out in service to others. A typical *ARISE* session lasts about 90 minutes and includes gathering, breaking open our story, breaking open God's story and an invitation to act.

Our clergy, staff and parish team believe that the Holy Spirit is actively guiding us through every aspect of *ARISE*. We have a faith-filled, energetic and committed parish team! The small community leaders who have come for-

ward are thrilled with the free training and support that they receive and with the amazing sharing and connections that occur in every session! The group participants—men, women, singles, couples—have deepened their faith and have made many new friends. Here are some of their comments:

- I never realized how much the Bible had to say to me!
- I thought I would be uncomfortable, but the atmosphere encourages me to share!
- I now have a group of new friends that I see at Mass and also at the supermarket!
- The book is beautiful and easy to follow!
- Jesus is much more a part of my life now!
- My prayer life has changed dramatically!
- I appreciate the confidentiality of the group!



- *ARISE* has made it easier for me to talk about faith with my family!
- I can't wait for the groups to start up again!
- The Mass has new and deeper meaning for me!

Are you being summoned to "Follow in the Footsteps of Christ?" The answer may be only a phone call away...



**The Parish Staff** (from left to right): Fr. Kevin Sepe, Patty Kinnally, Marge Donaher, Fr. Darin Colarusso, Vittoria DeBenedictis, Linda Muldoon and Rick Timmerman. Jim Quinlan was not available for the picture.



## Religious Education

We are fortunate to have many volunteers to assist in the faith formation of our young people. For some, this is the first year they will teach, many others return year after year. Not only do our young people benefit and learn more about our Lord, but the Catechists say they too learn more each time they come to class! We would like to acknowledge two special women who have been part of our Religious Education program for many years, *Ellie Golden and Kay Bickford*, but will take a *sabbatical* this year. We wish them a good year and look forward to their return.

We are proud that two of our high school catechists were honored at the Archdiocesan Awards Banquet in April. *Michaela Boscoe* was awarded the Catholic Youth Ministry Discipleship Award, and *Sean Morgan* received the Cardinal's Youth Award. These awards are presented to outstanding youth who respond to the call to discipleship through service to their parish and wider community and who are role models to their peers. Congratulations Michaela and Sean.

Our program follows the Archdiocesan guidelines, but also includes other activities to broaden our view of the Church. We include church visits, Mass, prayer experiences, Adoration, and Stations of the Cross for all grade levels. Service activities for all grades include clothing and food drives, as well as sending cards to shut-ins.

Following the gospel message to help others, and to broaden the horizons of our young people, our Confirmation program offers many service opportunities both in the parish and outside communities for the students in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. They include: preparing breakfast at *the Paul Sullivan House, a shelter for homeless women* in Dorchester; wrapping Christmas gifts at *My Brothers' Keeper in Easton*; assisting at the *Mass of Anointing* in November; helping at the *Braintree Food Pantry*; assisting at parish *Baptism Ceremonies*; and the *Ice Cream Social* at Braintree Manor.

All this is possible thanks to the many men, women, and high school students who volunteer to make this a vibrant program!

## Braintree Manor Gives Back

On Thursday, July 16, a team of residents and staff arrived at St. Francis of Assisi Church to "give back to the community" in gratitude for the pastoral presence that our clergy, staff and volunteers bring to Braintree Manor, a Kindred Healthcare Facility. This very special cleaning team wiped down woodwork and statues, polished pews and vacuumed seat cushions, and even found our industrial vacuum and ran it throughout the entire church! The distinctive aroma of furniture polish lingered for several days; and during the weekend Masses, many parishioners commented on the cleanliness of the church!

Fr. Sepe had an opportunity to mingle with our friends from Braintree Manor—many of whom he recognized from the monthly Masses celebrated there. Several members of the clean-

ing crew also asked for Fr. Colarusso, who happened to be on his day off. They were all so happy to see "their" church and remarked on the beauty of our worship space. The nice, cool air conditioning made quite an impression as well! When everyone finished their assigned tasks, we enjoyed a lunch of pizza and cold drinks in the church hall. Then the mini-bus arrived to transport a tired but happy group back to Braintree Manor.





## Saint Francis of Assisi School Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

For fifty years Saint Francis of Assisi School has been committed to the academic and spiritual development of area students in grades pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Over the years the school has increased its enrollment and broadened and deepened both academic and enrichment programs. In addition to a solid traditional curriculum, today's students also study Spanish and Italian and have access to a state-of-the-art computer lab and Smart Board technology. A full-time guidance counselor, nurse and reading and math specialist further support the school community.

The success of the school has required expansion to accommodate two pre-school classes for three and four-year olds, as well as two classes for kindergarten through fourth grades. Major renovations were completed in time to welcome the expanding student body in September.

Throughout fifty years of physical and academic growth, the school community has remained focused on its mission to follow Jesus and imitate St. Francis of Assisi as instruments of peace. Catholic values lay at the foundation of students' spiritual development, and participation in community service is an ongoing part of the academic calendar.

As the school community celebrates its fiftieth anniversary, faculty and staff are continuing to plan for the future. With more expansion on the horizon, Father Sepe and Principal, Mrs. Vittoria DeBenedictis recently appointed Ms. Kathleen Cummings, an alumna and a current parent of a fourth-grade student, to the position of Director of Development. Together, they will promote the exciting vision for the future of Saint Francis of Assisi School.

## St. Vincent de Paul Society

St. Francis of Assisi's chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society is a very active ministry. The Society faithfully addresses the needs of so many of our sisters and brothers throughout our parish family and the surrounding community. This dedicated, compassionate group of men and women, who volunteer their time and talent to our parish, work in teams.

Over the past year we have seen the number of families needing this assistance rise dramatically. Many times the request is for food; and thankfully due to your generous donations to the food pantry, we have been able to honor these requests. Our pantry, which is housed in the Rectory, is open Thursdays from 10AM-12PM and 2:00-4:00PM. The pantry is organized and operated by members of the team.

The parish office also receives many requests for financial assistance with rent, fuel/utility bills, etc. These families are referred to our SVdP Society. When a request for assistance is received the scheduled team makes a home visit to assess the clients' needs. Based on the assessment a recommendation will be returned to the committee who then discerns the best possible response to the client's needs. The client is also provided with a list of other possible resources for assistance. When financial assistance is provided, the funds are taken from the St. Vincent de Paul account which is totally funded by your donations to the SVdP boxes. The average monthly collection from these boxes is \$350.

Our parish family expresses our deepest gratitude to the SVdP team and to all of you for your donations.

### Team Members

Jim Dwyer  
Linda Walsh French  
Linda Muldoon  
Jane O'Brien  
Dick and Maureen O'Neil  
Bill and Mary Phelan  
John and Sue Reid





## Update from the Business Manager's Office

Earlier this year Fr. Sepe was appointed as Vicar Forane for Vicariate I of the South Region. In that capacity he requested that I organize Business Manager Meetings for those in the vicariate. The concept was enthusiastically received by the other Pastors and Business Managers. These meetings allow us to share information regarding various vendors, develop best practices, and continually update ourselves on financial requirements from Federal and/or State government or the Archdiocese of Boston. We have had guest speakers from the Archdiocese on Audit Procedures, End of Fiscal Year Accounting, and the Improved Financial Relationship committee. Meetings are held every other month and have become so popular that business managers from outside vicariates have asked to be included. All the Business Managers involved thank Fr. Sepe for his leadership in establishing these meetings.

The Parish Electronic Funds Transfer, EFT program, continues to grow. We now have about 35 families in the program. If you would like to use this option for your offertory contribution please contact the Parish Office. The procedure is very simple and we thank those that are already taking advantage of the EFT.

The Archdiocese has asked me to take part in a test program for a web-based QuickBooks Accounting Program in the upcoming Fiscal Year. This would allow us improved access to our accounting files and would simplify the exchange of financial reports between the Parish and Pastoral Center. Since we have accepted being part of the test program, our software will be updated and the web-based system loaded at no cost to the parish. I am looking forward to this opportunity to keep the Parish equipped with up to date financial procedures.

## Reverend Fred Bayler



Our Transitional Deacon Frederick C. Bayler, 55, a native of El Paso, Texas, was ordained a Catholic Priest on June 12, 2009 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Fairbanks, Alaska, the only missionary diocese in the United States. Father Fred is a father and grandfather who previously served as a lay minister and RCIA catechist. He previously served in Alaska as a Park Ranger at Denali National Park. Having just completed his Master of Divinity degree at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary, Weston, Massachusetts, Father Fred also holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Texas A&M University. He has worked in many diverse fields including: U.S. Customs Inspector, U.S. State Department Foreign Service Officer, Federal Bank Vice President and Chief Appraiser, and is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran.

"It was my service as an Altar Boy at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in my youth, and the strong and steadfast devotion of my mother, Shirley, a Third Order Franciscan, and many others that sowed the seeds of my priestly vocation. In large measure, the shortage of priests coupled with the damage from the sexual abuse scandal within the Church called me forward to protect the people of God in the Church, with a desire to be a bridge-builder among the many disparate elements both within and from outside the Church. I am extremely grateful to the parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi in Braintree who welcomed me into their parish with open arms. I am also very grateful to our Pastor, Fr. Sepe, all of the clergy in residence, and the staff who have all been so helpful and encouraging during my deacon year of pastoral ministry. Please keep me in your prayers as you remain always in mine."

Fred may be contacted at Sacred Heart Cathedral where he has been assigned as Parochial Vicar at 1316 Peger Road, Fairbanks, AK 99755.



## **Parish Financial Report July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009**

This fiscal year we were able to complete the elevator annex and restoration of the church sanctuary area. The clean-up of the oil spill dating back to the 1960's has been finalized. The MASS DEP has accepted the test results submitted by our licensed site professional. Approximately \$581,000 was expended this year to complete these projects. The final cost of the elevator project and oil clean up is \$1,559,128. This includes nearly \$87,000 for the cost of the oil clean-up.

Additionally this year, we upgraded the rectory burner with a multi-fuel system at a cost of \$17,000. so that we can utilize either oil or gas, depending upon the market price. Soffit screening on the rectory had to be replaced to keep the squirrels from entering the attic crawl space which cost another \$3,500.

Our Capital Campaign will be entering its third year. The pledge money is being used to pay the promissory note for the elevator project which has a remaining balance of \$335,561. We collected just over \$318,000 during the last fiscal year and have a total of \$219,708 to collect for the remaining pledges. You can see that the amount left to collect will fall short of the remaining loan balance. Our original pledges would have covered all of the elevator costs plus funds to pay down the debt on the Tenney Road property for additional parking which had a balance of about \$289,000. Regretfully some of our pledges may not become a reality due to changes in the economy. We generated nearly \$35,000 of interest on the loans. I will be seeking guidance from the Finance Council to develop a plan to make up for this shortfall.

Fortunately the common investment fund finally started to make a comeback during the last few months of the year, but over the course of the fiscal year the account lost over \$55,000, and we closed the year with a value of about \$410,000. Other parish checking/savings accounts have about \$38,000 of unrestricted funds that we will be using for operating expenses during the upcoming year.

The Parish Operating/Expense report is displayed on the following page. The chart indicates that we were able to adhere closely to the budget that the Finance Council recommended. The total of our expenses is within a few thousand dollars of the desired budget, but some of the income items fell a bit short as indicated in the offertory line item.

Our school continues to be financially sound and a condensed financial summary is shown on the following page. The school also accrued \$86,124 in payroll for the teachers that desire their salary spread over the summer months. The major portion of the school profit will be used to increase classrooms in our growing school. If there are questions on financial reports please contact our Business Manager, Rick Timmerman.

We all are aware that the economy over the past two years has been challenging. The loss to the investment fund and of some pledges has had a severe impact on the parish. I pray that you will be able complete your capital pledges, if you have not already done so, and that you will participate in our grand annual collection this fall as you can see our financial need. Realizing that the economy has impacted all our parishioners, I truly appreciate whatever increase you can give this year to assist our parish family.



St. Francis of Assisi Parish		
Parish Operating Budget FY 2008-2009	Actual	Budget
<b>Income</b>		
Weekly Offertory Collection	555,898	582,800
Sacramental	26,100	25,200
Grand Annual	43,438	70,000
Gifts and Bequests	10,389	10,800
Religious Education	44,015	45,000
Interest	896	4,800
Fundraising	16,430	10,000
Other	68,339	46,390
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>765,505</b>	<b>794,990</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Church & Rectory Staff Compensation	206,211	201,280
Clergy Compensation including Unassigned Help	77,691	77,500
Religious Education Compensation	46,658	45,784
Benefits & Payroll Taxes	58,410	60,590
Office Supply, Professional Fees, Subscriptions	13,954	14,035
Telephone, Utilities, Heat, Water & Sewer	53,853	61,205
Property & Liability Insurance	11,027	8,000
Building & Grounds Maintenance Contr. & Supply	81,549	70,550
Books/Pamphlets, Missalettes, & Pilot	8,468	7,820
Printing, Postage & Weekly Envelopes	11,025	12,180
Household Supplies & Food	23,069	25,500
Pastoral/Liturgical Supply	26,175	28,850
Religious Education Program Expenses	50,271	48,685
Church Charitable Works	55,911	64,280
Fundraising Expenses	8,073	4,500
Transfer to School for Support	30,000	30,000
Meetings, Conferences & Misc. Items	4,585	4,030
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>766,930</b>	<b>764,789</b>
<b>Budget Profit or Loss</b>	<b>(1,425)</b>	<b>30,201</b>

St. Francis of Assisi School		
School Operating Budget FY2008-2009	Actual	Budget
<b>Income</b>		
Tuitions	1,329,727	1,357,405
Fundraising and Other Income	424,610	253,450
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,754,337</b>	<b>1,610,855</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Staff Compensation & Benefits	1,129,223	1,162,571
Educational Program Expenses	241,358	124,393
Facility Expenses	161,083	160,660
Capital Improvements	151,449	150,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,683,113</b>	<b>1,597,624</b>
<b>Budget Profit or Loss</b>	<b>71,224</b>	<b>13,231</b>

**Finance Council  
2009/2010**

- Paula Colia
- Bill Devin
- Bill Doyle
- Roland Driscoll
- John Fleming
- David Francis
- Elaine Kelly
- Bob Muldoon
- Steve Pugsley

*Ex Officio*  
Fr. Kevin M. Sepe  
Rick Timmerman

**Parish Council  
2009/2010**

- Linda Berardinelli
- Janice Boscoe
- Phil Diana
- Ann Marie Dube
- Susan Egan
- Ed Gibbons
- Francis Ialenti
- Tom Neville
- Donald Norton
- Mary Phelan
- Denis Riordan
- Jim Turley
- Karen Whitney

*Ex Officio*  
Fr. Kevin M. Sepe  
Fr. Darin Colarusso  
Linda Muldoon

**St. Francis of Assisi Parish**  
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**St. Francis of Assisi Parish**

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Website: [www.sfab.org](http://www.sfab.org)

**Mass Schedule:**

*Saturday evening 4:00 PM*  
*Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:30, 12:00 noon*  
*Weekday Monday thru Friday*  
*7:00 AM, Saturday 9:00 AM*

In the past fiscal year, we are proud to  
report that there were:

**Baptisms ~ 91**  
**First Communions ~ 108**  
**Confirmations ~ 40**  
**Marriages ~ 16**  
**Funerals ~ 104**