Holy Family Parish has made a big commitment in the last year or so to reaching out to those who are hurting for any reason by becoming a “Stephen Ministry” parish. In existence since 1975, Stephen Ministry is a distinctly Christian program that trains individuals to be a compassionate one-on-one presence for those who are experiencing any type of difficulty. The meetings are usually weekly and in the “care receivers” homes, and can go on for up to a year. This much-needed program is active in more than 11,000 parishes in about two dozen countries.

Twelve parishioners (eight women, four men) agreed last fall to undergo 50 hours of training and were commissioned as Stephen Ministers on April 14. All of them were assigned to care receivers within six weeks. Since some hurts do not linger as long as some others, and so, a couple of the ministers are not presently assigned.

Still, knowing that we are only touching the tip of the hurting iceberg, the parish has begun a second round of training sessions this September in order to have more Stephen Ministers available for those we anticipate will need them. The training sessions are being taught by newly trained “Stephen Leader,” Bob Lyons, who has taken a very active role in assisting Deacon Art Keefe, who began the program here and remains very much involved.

If you would like to learn more about Stephen Ministry can do for you, or if you would like to learn more about becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact either Deacon Art akeefe@holyfamilyduxbury.org / 781-264-3880 or Bob Lyons thelilipad@verizon.net / 617-680-0398.

Deacon Art Keefe

October 16, 2013
Dear Parishioner,

This Annual Parish Report is presented to you in a different format than in previous years. Not only do I want to give you a picture of where we stand financially, but I'd like to highlight some of the ministries and activities that rely upon your generous support of Holy Family Parish.

Early this September, our parish celebrated not only the usual five weekend liturgies but after each Mass, we also held a Ministry Fair where the many and varied ministries, groups and organizations of the parish were celebrated for the ways they make Holy Family the vibrant community of faith it is, and invitations were extended for new volunteers to become involved. A new Parish Directory was distributed at that weekend's Masses which lists them all. If you didn't receive one, you can pick up a copy at one of the doors of the church. It’s amazing to think about the literally hundreds of people who share their time and talent seeking to make a difference, not only for people within our parish, but also for others in need within the wider community. That same weekend, we had 149 high school juniors receive the Sacrament of Confirmation after several years of formation through our parish Religious Education program.

In addition, a new ministry to our parish called Faith Uniting Neighbors (F.U.N.) held their first event – a Family Carnival. F.U.N. is dedicated to building an even more vibrant community among our parishioners offering social, charitable and educational opportunities for families, couples and individuals.

In this mailing, I’ve asked our Director of Religious Education, Catherine Kelleher, to share with you about our new Stephen Ministry, which is a caring outreach to those hurting in any way within our community. I think you'll be impressed by the complexity and depth of these ministries and the special benefit they provide to the members of our community.

Through the fulfillment of parishioners’ financial commitments to the mission of Christ and His Church here in Duxbury, we are blessed to have the ability to support these and many other vital ministries and good works taking place here at Holy Family. Thank you for the part you play in helping make it all possible!

Gratefully in Christ,
Fr. Bob
Reverend Robert J. Deehan Pastor
The adjacent Statements of Changes in Cash Flow provides you with a report of the income and expenses for Holy Family Parish for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2013, which includes what was budgeted for that year and what we have budgeted for the following fiscal year. You will note that there is a reduction in the bottom-line cash deficit, which is principally due to a deferral of some of the fixed asset acquisitions (repairs, replacements and maintenance) that we had budgeted for in FY 2013, which will be completed in FY 2014. The deficit in 2013 and the one projected for 2014 will be financed by the cash surplus realized in FY 2012.

Our total operating income for FY 2013 was under budget by $2,429. Part of the reason for that was because the offering income did not reach our weekly collection goal of $13,700. We’re hoping to reach that target in FY 2014 with the support of more of our parishioners and with increased use of electronic giving. I’m very pleased to see that the number of parishioners using this means of support is growing, and if you aren’t using this means of consistent support, please contact our business manager, Diane Martin to enroll. The Grand Annual collection, which now funds capital improvements and other major projects, was low this past fall due to the already generous response of parishioners to the church debt elimination campaign the previous spring. You’ll note that this year we anticipate a more robust response to this appeal. Happily, sacramental offerings and other gifts to the parish were over what was expected and total operating expenses for FY 2013 were under budget by $3,505. The increased portion our parish is due to receive in 2014 from parishioner generosity to the Archdiocesan Catholic Appeal (Retreat) this past year, reflects a very positive trend we’re hoping will continue. As expenses increase because of unforeseen causes, like snowstorms and failing equipment, we try to manage other expenses more closely.

Looking at our FY 2014 budget, you’ll note that the total operating expenses ($840,569) reflect increases in insurance premiums, employee costs and inflation in energy and other expenses. We’re continuing our efforts to address our aging church building with church exterior and window repairs, a carry-over from FY 2013, and interior church painting. We anticipate spending $176,650 for these and other fixed asset acquisitions. Some painting has already been done in connection with the addition of niches for the statues of our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph in our church sanctuary.

With a nearly million-dollar operation dependant primarily on voluntary contributions, I realize that faith plays a major role in carrying on the mission of Christ and His Church here in Duxbury - faith in God and faith in you, our parishioner. As God has blessed each of us in many and varied ways, so too, must we do our part to assure that God’s work continues here at Holy Family with the financial support needed to do that. I thank those of you who fulfill your responsibility by thoughtfully and consistently supporting your parish. – Fr. Bob

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**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

What a wonderful time we have had in religious education throughout our 2012-2013 year!

I could certainly list off the statistics for you: 1049 enrolled students, 115 First Holy Communion and First Penance candidates, and 149 Confirmation candidates, for example. I could also give you an accounting of how much we collected in registrations versus how much we paid out for materials, texts, and retreat fees. But none of that would give you the true picture of what life is like here at the Office for Religious Education here at Holy Family Parish.

The bell rings. Mrs. Colleen Larose calls her first and second grade chicks to an opening prayer. Small heads bow and, with hands neatly folded, little voices earnestly recite the Our Father. Imagine scores of energetic Holy Family middle school students fanning out throughout Duxbury with middle school students from different faith traditions in order to collect non-perishable items for the Duxbury Interfaith food baskets. Try to picture restless fifth grade students settling quietly in the chapel for a beautiful introduction to Eucharistic Adoration. And finally, envision rambunctious teens bringing their energy and excitement into the church for the closing Mass of their overnight Confirmation retreat.

Of course, we also have weekly instruction in our beautiful Catholic faith and traditions, and we are very grateful to all of our 100 catechists who share their own faith journeys with our children of our parish as well as the full complement of volunteers who give of their time for retreats, service projects, and Youth Masses. We simply could not succeed without their generous hearts. But in truth, we are thankful for all parishioners of Holy Family who have been present with us in prayer and in support of our program.

Catherine Kelleher
Director of Religious Education