

ST. AGATHA PARISH

MILTON – QUINCY

2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT
AND PROJECTED 2008-2009 BUDGET

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St. Agatha Parish 2007-2008 Annual Report And Projected 2008-2009 Budget

“If I, therefore the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.”

John 13:14-15



In this passage from scripture, Jesus invites us to wash each other’s feet. Throughout the year, July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, this invitation was accepted and lived at St. Agatha Parish, Milton/Quincy. Several new initiatives augmented the ongoing parish work of visiting the sick and dying, comforting the grieving, proclaiming the Word of God, celebrating sacraments, offering hospitality, and supporting agencies that provide for those in need. We recognize the inseparability of worshiping God, nurturing our faith, and doing works of justice. We rejoice in the love of God and neighbor which we see abundantly in evidence at St. Agatha Parish. It was evident in the many ways that the people of the Parish gave willingly of their time, talent, and treasure. Believing the Lord has called us and that we are Blessed and Sent, the Gospel of Jesus Christ was proclaimed through the many ministries and programs of the Parish. Jesus was very present in the celebration of the Sacramental Life of the Parish.

NOURISHING OUR SOULS

The Eucharist is the center of our lives as Catholics. We are sent forth from the celebration of Mass to serve the Lord and one another – to wash each other’s feet. We are sent forth into the world, to our homes and communities, fortified to bear witness to Christ. During the course of the past year, we at St. Agatha Parish have been strengthened for this sacred work through prayer and other activities, among them the following:

- Our daily Masses celebrated at 7:00AM and 9:00AM continued to be well attended. On any given day at each Mass there were over 75 people participating in this time of prayer. Attendance at Saturday Vigil/Sunday Masses remained steady this year. The count taken in October of 2007, indicated there was an average of 2,170 people in attendance each weekend, an indication that Faith is alive at St. Agatha Parish.
- The 9:00AM Mass on Sunday mornings is very popular with young families. The members of the Puppet Ministry Team shared a Puppet Parable once a month at this Mass. In addition, twice each month, our Family Mass Committee hosted a reception following this Mass.

- On most Sundays throughout the year a guitarist and cantor were present for the 5:00PM Mass.
- The choral tradition of Catholic sacred worship is vibrant and flourishing at St. Agatha Parish. Participation in the two adult choirs remains strong. The dedicated group of middle school aged string instrument players continued to develop, with the highlight being their participation in Christmas liturgies.
- This year a High School/young adult contemporary music group was formed at Saint Agatha Parish. The players chose their own name “Praise the Roof”, and worked with the Music Director to design their repertoire with an ear towards their generation. The group began leading the music during the Easter 2008 season at a 5:00 Mass, and led music at the 5:00 Mass for the celebrations during the summer, including the Feasts of Corpus Christi and Saints Peter and Paul.
- We are very grateful this year for those who give of their time and talent on the Art & Environment Committee to decorate the Church for each liturgical season and beautify our worship space throughout the year. They help set the tone for more meaningful liturgy. Since overflow Masses at Christmas and Easter are now celebrated in the Parish Center, they had to use all of their skills to create a reverent worship space. They passed the test with flying colors!
- Retreats are an important component of the Faith Formation curriculum for Grades 6-10. While we have always had retreats throughout the Confirmation process, we have now expanded the retreat experience into middle school as well. Each retreat is tailored to the particular grade level. In September, the middle school Faith Formation students experienced an afternoon retreat. It was a good way to ease back into sessions and to build community. Grade 9 students had an evening during Lent led by peer ministers who gave witness talks about their relationships with Jesus. The Grade 10 retreat is a profound experience for those approaching Confirmation, and is led by Sean Forrest, a Christian rock star with an awesome message.

- The school is a ministry of the parish and an important part of our faith community. The retreats for the St. Agatha School children include one for the 6th grade in which the students working in teams write their own versions of Psalm 139. Grade 7 spent some time with the scriptures focused on the Passion of Christ. Grade 8 spent a day at Miramar Retreat Center in Duxbury. The highlight of the day was Eucharistic Adoration and Mass.
- At one weekday Mass each month the St. Agatha School community joined the parish community in the celebration of the Eucharist. The students served as lectors and read the Prayers of the Faithful, and the Youth Choir led the music. During Advent and Lent individual classes attended daily Mass.
- During Lent, we again added an evening Mass each Wednesday at 5:30 PM. The Mass was well received by parishioners whose work schedules made it difficult to attend morning Masses. Stations of the Cross were also prayed each Friday evening.
- Over this past fiscal year we had 160 Baptisms, 123 First Communions, 101 Confirmations, 49 Weddings and 142 Funerals. Additionally, two adults participated in the RCIA process. One was baptized, received the Eucharist and was confirmed the other was welcomed into the Church and received the Eucharist and was confirmed.
- The celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism took place on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month as well as at some of the weekend liturgies. 160 families brought their children to be welcomed into the Family of God through the waters of Baptism. In December of 2007, a Baptism Welcoming Team was formed at St. Agatha Parish. Parishioners, serving as team members, began making home visits to families of children being baptized offering a packet of material that sheds light on how the parish speaks to the needs of families. Families matter at St. Agatha Parish; it is important to us that we know one another and look for ways to be of help.
- Two Masses of Anointing were offered for some of our parishioners who are ill or physically unable to attend Mass regularly. These were held in October and June and included a special liturgy followed by a luncheon providing an opportunity for social enjoyment. In addition, 25 of our Eucharistic Ministers visited more than 80 of our homebound parishioners on a regular basis. Some of these volunteers conducted weekly Communion Services at local nursing homes.
- WINGS (Women in God's Spirit) completed its second year of three seasons (fall, winter and spring) offering women from the parish and beyond information about their faith, an opportunity to deepen their spiritual life, and a chance to develop relationships with women who care deeply about nurturing their souls.

COMMUNICATING OUR FAITH

As Catholics we are called both to deepen our understanding of our faith, and to bear witness to our love of Christ. Through faith formation we come to know the Word and to be guided by it. When we allow Christ more fully into our lives, our words and actions seed the community, growing our Catholic family. When we communicate within our parish community as well as beyond, we bear witness to our faith. During the past year, we, the St. Agatha Parish family, have propagated the Word of Christ in the following ways:

- St. Agatha Parish is concerned for all of its members, whether they are living singly or in families. In the fall of 2007, and continuing into the summer of 2008, another Parish Team began planning for a new program called "ARISE: Together in Christ". Its goal is to reach out to any and all people who would like to come together and share the stories from their lives that connect to their belief in God and the love of Jesus Christ for all people. ARISE is for the young and the old, the rich and the poor, the single and the married, the church and the unchurched. It is anticipated that by meeting in small groups of 8-12 people for two seasons of 6 weeks each in the upcoming year, our lives will become richer in faith both as individuals and as parish.
- Young Church's Ministry's Junior High Program (sixth-eighth grade) is an exciting program. Catechesis, Service and Socialization are its three components. The children came together early in the year at a retreat to create community. Then, to connect their faith with their actions, the groups performed a number of Christian service activities. The most popular are the St. Francis House clothing collection and bake sale, Long Island Shelter clothing collection, and making fruit baskets around Thanksgiving for members of the community who are unable to come to parish activities. Twice a year the classes are invited to come together in reflection sessions to process their Christian service. Social activities such as Friday night drop-ins and social outings (e.g. Amesbury Sports Park) occur regularly.
- Young Church Ministry sponsored the first annual Thank-You Dinner on Sunday evening, March 30th, for all the young people engaged in the various ministries here at St. Agatha Parish. Teens from the music ministry, the Passion Play, the "I Am Special" program and peer ministers who helped out with the ninth grade retreat joined together for good food, friendship, and even some great music performed by a few young people from the music ministry who formed a combo.

LIVING OUT OUR MISSION STATEMENT

At St. Agatha Parish, we are committed to living out our baptismal calls. As we learn about God through Jesus, worship God through Jesus, and hear from God through Jesus, we respond by bringing to the world compassion, hope and concrete help for the vulnerable, the marginalized, the poor, the suffering, and the despised. We believe we are called to live as disciples of Jesus Christ and that in the “living out of baptism” we spread the Good News to all the world. Through service to those in need, we demonstrate our commitment to live as Jesus would live. We, the St. Agatha Parish family, have lived this life of community and service over the past year in many ways, among them:

- We earmarked \$30,000 of our budget to be contributed to individuals and organizations serving those in need. The Charitable Giving Committee met regularly to advise on the distribution of these funds. In 2007-2008, recipients included, two organizations serving the people of Haiti (St. Rock Foundation and St. Boniface Foundation), Por Christo, Quincy Community Action Program, Cops for Kids with Cancer, Milton Food Pantry, Sisters of Jesus Crucified, My Brother’s Keeper, Fr. Bill’s Place, and many others.
- We maintained our involvement in the Chernobyl Children Project. Although we did not host any children, the Chernobyl Giving Tree was redesigned to collect items to send back to the hospitals and orphanages in Belarus and Russia. A can and bottle drive was held and all proceeds were donated to the Project.
- The Parish committed itself to expanding its support of the St. Rock Clinic in Haiti. A parish sub-committee was formed to explore feasible ways to provide clean water to the clinic and the surrounding villages. Efforts to support our neighbors in Haiti are being expanded and will include a large auction to be held in the fall to raise money to purchase medical supplies and other essentials.
- Our Mother’s Day Project resulted in 200 special Mother’s Day baskets being distributed to St. Mary’s Home, Friends of the Unborn, Fenix House, Project Hope, Pregnancy Services and the Martha & Mary Learning Center.
- The Bereavement Team continued its important work of providing comfort and support to those who have lost loved ones. The Bereavement Workshop has proven to be a very special place for those who are grieving to come together for spiritual strengthening and mutual support.

EMBRACING TODAY, PLANNING FOR TOMORROW

St. Agatha Parish has been blessed in so many ways over the years, the many gifts of time, talent and treasure freely shared by its parishioners have emanated from profound gratitude to God and a prayerful spirit of determination. With those gifts the parish has also accepted its stewardship responsibility for all the gifts that God has bestowed on us. Among these gifts are our finances and physical plant. During this past year, the long planning process for the renovations to our lower Church and the modernization of the entire Church’s infrastructure came to fruition as construction began. The contract to complete the renovation project was awarded to Auburn Construction, a company with extensive experience in church construction and renovation. The work was begun in mid-January and is expected to be completed in September 2008.

At the same time, our Capital Campaign, “Joining our Hands for the Future” continued in full swing. Since the cost of the project exceeded what we anticipated, the increased participation of the parish was critical. A generous anonymous parishioner pledged an additional \$250,000 with the hope that it would be matched by additional gifts from others. That hope was realized as many people came forward to increase their level of support or join the campaign for the first time. As the fiscal year drew to a close, \$2,808,163 had been pledged and \$1,891,477 had been collected. 760 parish households had participated, and of that number, 344 have already paid their pledges in full. From its outset in the fall of 2006, the campaign, has been a true example of an entire community coming together to provide a secure and enhanced future for St. Agatha Parish.

PARISH PERSONNEL CHANGES

During this past year our staff remained unchanged for the first time in several years. However, we did learn that beginning in September of this year, Sr. Susan, our Director of Faith Formation for Grades 1-5 and adults will be taking on a special assignment for her Order and will be taking a leave of absence from the Parish until July of 2009. Ms. Kathy Kimble, a religious educator with many years of experience, has accepted the position of Interim Director until Sr. Susan returns from leave.

ST. AGATHA SCHOOL 2008 Annual Report and Discussion

In contrast to the general trend in the Archdiocese of declining enrollment, St. Agatha School remained a vibrant and growing community of Catholic education. The school’s full accreditation by NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) last year was a huge accomplishment, but told only part of the story of excellence that characterizes the learning experience at St. Agatha School.

Our standardized test scores indicated that in all grades and in all subjects our student averages exceed national averages. Our 2008 graduates received over \$175,000 in scholarships and grants to attend Catholic and other private high schools.

The best in educational resources are hallmarks of St. Agatha School. For example, new texts were purchased this year for primary reading classes, science and math equipment throughout the grades, and teachers continued to attend professional workshops and courses related to their subject areas. Moreover, in summer 2008, the computer lab was moved to the former library space and is now a media research center.

The enrollment remained strong at over 450 students, and re-registrations and new enrollments for the 2008-2009 school year indicate that we can expect in excess of 480 students. This enrollment trend necessitated the creation of an additional third grade classroom this year, and a third fourth grade classroom will be added next year to accommodate those students moving up from last year's third grade. The numbers for this grade are very strong, with over 21 students expected in each fourth grade classroom. Of this year's graduating class, 33 students will be attending Catholic, private, or exam high schools.

Of critical importance is the fact that St. Agatha School remains a parish school. More than 58% of our students are parishioners. The remaining school population includes children from the city of Boston (13.7%) and 14 other surrounding communities. The parish school remains a diverse, parochial community, committed to excellence in education in a nurturing environment that celebrates Catholic Christian values. Members of our school community are committed to maintaining a strong Catholic identity while striving to offer students the very best in current educational methods and materials. During this past year, our school's monthly mission collections supported the Juvenile Diabetes Association, Children's Hospital, Fr. Bill's Place, Eventide Nursing Home, St. Jude's Hospital, My Brother's Keeper and many other organizations that foster our school's Christian service and values. Fr. Casey and Fr. Bob Poitras visit all of our classrooms regularly, and Fr. Bob and our parish Youth Minister, Mrs. Mary Sheedy, led retreats for students in our middle school.

The FY 08 and FY 07 financial results for St. Agatha School and the school's FY 09 Budget are both presented on page 7 of this report. This was a difficult year financially because the budget which is set well before enrollment levels are known, anticipated higher levels than what ultimately occurred. This created a shortfall in tuition revenue, which could have proven to be a major problem for the operation of the school. However, through a combination of tight financial controls, the financial success of the After School Program, the results of the various fundraisers, including Bingo and the transfer from the parish this potential problem was averted.

As mentioned in the previous paragraph, the parents again did a remarkable job of fundraising, grossing nearly \$198,000 through a variety of activities. Bingo was also a very pleasant surprise. All net revenue from the weekly Bingo game goes to the school's operating budget, and after several years of declining revenue, Fiscal Year 2008, actually saw an increase from Fiscal 2007, and revenue was approximately \$20,000 more than was budgeted. Given the tuition shortfall, this increase could not have come at a better time.

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2008

The following section details parish and school finances for Fiscal Year 2008, covering the period of July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. Parish financial results for FY 08, FY 07, and the Parish's projected FY 09 Budget are presented in a chart found on page 6. School financial results for FY 08, FY 07, and the school's projected FY 09 Budget are presented in the chart found on page 7.

PARISH INCOME

Parish income, excluding income from the Capital Campaign, for FY 08, totaled \$1,105,224. Despite the decline in the Grand Annual Collection, which was 31% less than budgeted, overall income was up by nearly 21%. There were two reasons for this. First, the Weekly Offertory was stronger this year than any year in the past, topping \$600,000 for the first time and exceeding the budgeted amount by over \$21,000. Secondly, a very generous parishioner left a bequest of over \$92,000. Nevertheless, the precipitous drop in the Grand Annual, which is the second largest source of operational income for the Parish, is a concern for FY 09.

PARISH EXPENSES

Despite escalating costs in utilities, compensation and benefits, maintenance of our buildings, and capital acquisitions and improvements in a number of areas, total expenses for FY 08 amounted to \$1,090,058. Although this amount was a slight increase of 3.4% from FY 07 and although it was \$14,794 more than was budgeted for reasons explained below, it was still \$15,167 less than our income for the year. As with most organizations staff compensation, payroll taxes, and benefits account for over 50% of the Parish's annual expenses. This year the percentage was 58.9%.

It is important to note that in the projected FY 08 Parish Budget, \$41,636 was transferred to the school to reflect the fact that the school building is used for many parish activities and that the parish should contribute to the utilities and maintenance cost.

MAINTENANCE ISSUES

During this past year we continued to do routine maintenance and large projects designed to preserve our parish buildings as well as to enhance them. This past year it was necessary to do some extensive work on the gym. After nine years of routine maintenance, the floor had to be completely stripped and restored. This was a planned expense and was included in the budget. However, it was also discovered that the entire suspended ceiling needed to be replaced. This was an unexpected expense, and was the reason that overall expenses for the fiscal year were higher than budgeted. The cost of these two projects was shared with the School. The parish's portion amounted to \$19,500.

CAPITAL PROJECT

St. Agatha Parish Capital Campaign continued to move towards its goal throughout the fiscal year as described previously. This enabled the parish to go out to bid on the project to completely renovate the lower church and upgrade all of the major systems throughout the entire church building. Five different contractors bid on the project, but the initial bids were beyond the capital campaign projections. The project was re-bid after several parts of the project were modified. The lowest bid received was for \$2,833,808 by Auburn Construction. The bid was accepted and work commenced in January of 2008.

As of June 30th the project was approximately 60% complete. Work is expected to be completed in September. When it is finished, we will have created a beautiful chapel for 150 people, a gathering space for Parish functions, smaller rooms, one of which would be for a Parish Library/Meeting Room and the other to be used as a multi-purpose room for use by groups such as the choir. We will have modernized and expanded the restroom facilities and added a warming kitchen. We will have substantially upgraded the electrical, plumbing and heating systems for the entire Church – both upper and lower - including an entirely new heating plant and air conditioning unit for the lower Church area. We will have installed a completely new fire protection system, including the installation of sprinklers throughout the entire Church, something we never had. Finally, on the St. Agatha Rd. side of the Church, we will be creating a beautiful plaza entrance into the Chapel. At some point in the future, this plaza will become the entrance to our planned Prayer Garden.

PARISH SAVINGS

As of June 30, 2008, the Parish had cash balances as follows: \$33,687.00 in an operating checking/savings account, \$31.91 in an EFT account for RCAB Ins. transfer, \$35,492.00 in a Capital Campaign account, and \$153,975.43 in savings at RCAB depository. The total balance in savings amounts to \$223,186.34.

St. Agatha Parish FY08 Capital Budget
Actual results for fiscal year ended June 30, 2008
Budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2009

	<u>FY 08</u>	<u>Budget FY 09</u>
INCOME		
Capital Campaign	908,921	635,490
Interest	31,149	0
Gifts and Bequests	67,485	35,000
Total Income	<u>1,007,555</u>	<u>670,490</u>
EXPENSES		
Architects/Engineers	100,453	0
Capital Campaign	13,112	11,000
Construction	1,450,344	988,000
Furniture & Equipment	22,241	80,000
Interest Exp. on Loan	0	65,542
Miscellaneous	16,062	22,000
Total Expenses	<u>1,602,213</u>	<u>1,166,542</u>
NET INCOME (LOSS)	<u>-594,657</u>	<u>-496,052</u>

Parish Cash Position
As of June 30, 2008

	<u>Operations</u>	<u>Capital Project</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cash Balance, 6/30/07	184,506	666,817	851,323
Income	1,105,224	0	1,105,224
Expenses	-1,090,058	0	-1,090,058
Capital Contributions	0	940,070	940,070
Capital Expenditures	0	-1,602,213	-1,602,213
Cash Balance, 6/30/08	<u>\$199,672</u>	<u>\$4,674</u>	<u>\$204,346</u>

ST AGATHA PARISH**Income Statement for fiscal years ending June 30, 2008 and June 30, 2007****Budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2009**

	Actual <u>FY 08</u>	Actual <u>FY 07</u>	<u>Change</u>	Budget FY 09
INCOME				
Offertory	606,461	592,611	2.34%	600,000
Grand Annual Collection	148,540	3,975*	n/a	175,000
Gifts & Bequests	97,384	64,105	51.91%	18,000
Youth Activities	53,988	58,452	-7.64%	54,944
Sacramental Offerings	56,378	53,627	5.13%	55,400
Faith Formation Income	38,625	41,385	-6.67%	42,500
Rental Income	38,200	38,601	-1.04%	38,600
Other Income	49,555	34,846	42.21%	48,856
Interest Income	7,736	15,638	-50.53%	8,000
Donations	8,357	12,692	-34.16%	15,000
Total Income	\$1,105,224	\$915,932	20.67%	\$1,056,300
EXPENSES				
Salaries/Compensation	537,138	482,326	11.36%	534,037
Benefits and Payroll Taxes	102,655	90,078	13.96%	94,320
Maintenance & Repair	111,393	152,430	-26.92%	87,850
Liturgical & Parish Community Exp	107,226	127,609	-15.97%	125,000
Telephone & Utilities	51,584	45,477	13.43%	52,700
Office Supplies & Professional Fees	27,789	27,788	0.00%	26,550
Furnishings, Equipment & Improvements	18,843	26,940	-30.05%	26,000
Misc./Other Expenses	26,372	25,129	4.95%	26,375
Transfer to School	41,636	0	n/a	44,000
Books, Pamphlets, & Missalettes	21,355	24,903	-14.25%	22,000
Property & Liability Insurance	14,828	17,900	-17.16%	16,000
Household Expenses	9,280	12,264	-24.33%	10,000
Postage & Printing	11,645	10,115	15.13%	11,200
Vehicle Expenses	4,768	7,093	-32.78%	3,000
Weekly Envelope Expenses	3,545	3,778	-6.17%	4,000
Total Expenses	\$1,090,057	\$1,053,830	3.44%	\$1,083,032
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ 15,167	\$ -137,898		\$ -26,732

* A Grand Annual was not held in FY07 due to the start of the Capital Campaign.

ST AGATHA SCHOOL**Income Statement for fiscal years ending June 30, 2008 and June 30, 2007****Budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2009**

	Actual FY 08	Actual FY 07	Change	BUDGET FY 09
INCOME				
Tuition & Fees	1,724,010	1,632,843	5.58%	1,859,167
Fund Raising Activities	197,961	212,700	-6.93%	185,000
Net Bingo Proceeds	117,623	112,604	4.46%	95,511
Other Income	76,162	16,746	354.81%	26,750
RCAB Support	16,814	16,606	1.25%	8,000
Interest Income	10,748	10,620	1.20%	9,000
Gifts & Bequests	7,861	6,815	15.34%	6,000
Transfer from Parish	41,636	0	n/a	41,636
<i>Total Income</i>	<u>2,192,815</u>	<u>2,008,934</u>	<u>9.15%</u>	<u>2,231,064</u>
EXPENSES				
Salaries/Compensation	1,287,520	1,167,592	10.27%	1,304,658
Lay Benefits & Payroll Taxes	279,851	248,022	12.83%	355,752
Heat, Lights, Utilities	91,114	88,766	2.65%	96,000
Books, Instructional Materials	87,799	87,609	0.22%	92,250
Maintenance	100,076	83,828	19.38%	95,900
Fundraising	85,624	64,510	32.73%	58,000
Miscellaneous	83,471	59,344	40.66%	55,482
Professional Services	41,472	43,025	-3.61%	45,000
Religious Sisters: Stipends & Benefits	41,590	39,572	5.10%	45,796
Building Improvements	61,217	32,119	90.59%	48,252
Office & Related Expenses	19,544	22,277	-12.27%	24,775
Professional Development	4,360	4,438	-1.76%	6,700
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<u>2,183,638</u>	<u>1,941,103</u>	<u>12.49%</u>	<u>2,228,565</u>
NET SURPLUS	<u>\$9,177*</u>	<u>\$67,831*</u>		<u>\$2,499.00</u>

* Does not reflect expenses paid in the subsequent fiscal year for this fiscal year.