Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish
Methuen and Lawrence Massachusetts

FY2013 Financial Report

Fr. Christopher J. Casey, Pastor – Rev. Mr. Steven Murphy, Deacon

Finance Council Members:

Mr. John LoConte
Ms. Susan Fink
Mr. William Wallace

Business Manager: Ms. Pearl Ouellette
Dear Parishioners,

I am pleased to present to you this year’s Annual Report for Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish. I hope you find the report helpful.

The report is naturally a lot of numbers, and it may not reflect adequately the significant amount of progress we have made in addressing some long-standing issues in the various parish buildings. We have spent a lot of money on building repairs. Every building needed work, and although the costs to fix everything were high, today we have put behind us the major maintenance issues we face. We replaced the insulation in St. Theresa’s and repaired outdated wiring in the attic. We replaced the roofs of the School, St. Augustine’s Chapel, and the Rectory/Office which were all leaking badly, causing damage to the interior of the buildings. We repaired parking lots and sidewalks. We replaced broken gutters and redirected runoff water away from our buildings. We removed oil tanks and cleaned out long-forgotten storage rooms filled with junk. We’ve discovered and addressed problems with water damage at St. Augustine’s which caused significant wood rot and replaced wood and floors where needed. We repaired the floor in the Choir Loft at St. Theresa damaged long ago when the organ was moved and replaced the broken Plexiglas wall with an attractive wrought iron railing. We’ve added beautiful railings to the sanctuary at St. Theresa’s to assist people in navigating the stairs safely. We’ve cleaned the carpets in both churches. We replaced broken lighting fixtures at St. Augustine and refurbished the lighting fixtures at St. Theresa which were beginning to fall down with age.

As you can see, a significant amount of work was accomplished. I am happy that the Churches are safer, look better, are brighter, and smell better as a result of all the work. Unfortunately most of the work is hidden from view. I would have much rather spent the money on painting and restoring rather than on repairing. But it is also a relief to know that every time it rains the buildings are not suffering more damage.

I am grateful to the Finance Council who assists me greatly in making decisions about parish finances. Deacon Steve, Bill Wallace, Sue Fink, and our newest member John LoConte are excellent advisors and Pearl Ouellette in the Business Office and Carol Ann Ramirez in the Parish Office hold down the fort every day. I’d be lost without our Facilities Director Jim Massie who is able to do so much to keep our buildings up and running, assisted by his brother Scott who is constantly cleaning and maintaining the churches, the office, and the school.

I never cease to give thanks to Almighty God for you though, my brothers and sisters in Christ who call this Parish your own. I never forget that the money I spend is yours. Your donations have restored and built up this parish, have supported the continued existence of Catholic Education in Lawrence through the support of Lawrence Catholic Academy, provided a safe place for children to play throughout the year through our use of the gym at Judson Hall, and most importantly, provided a place where Catholics can each day find the Presence of God in our midst. Thank you for your continued financial support of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish. Be assured of my prayers!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Chris

Father Christopher J. Casey
Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish Income FY 2013

Total Income was $698,753 and we took an additional $300,000 from the Investment Fund

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish FY 2013 Expenses

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish FY 2013 Expenses were $972,759
Saint Joseph. Pray for us!

Close up of the statue of St. Joseph in the Sanctuary at St. Theresa Church.

Restoration of the statues at St. Theresa was just one of the beautification projects undertaken at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish during the Year of Faith.