Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish
Methuen and Lawrence Massachusetts

FY2014 Financial Report

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

Finance Council Members:

Ms. Susan Fink

Mr. John LoConte

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 covers the fiscal year 2014, July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. You’ll remember one of the significant events in the life of the parish during this period was the fire we had in Julie Hall. Vandals broke in to the school building and set a cabinet filled with religious education supplies afire. The blaze quickly spread and damaged all of Julie Hall and caused smoke damage in the hallways. I am happy to tell you that we have recovered from this completely and that insurance covered all but a fraction of our expenses. I am grateful to the Archdiocese of Boston Pastoral Center staff that was particularly helpful during this period. Julie Hall has been repainted top to bottom, and has a new epoxy floor and lighting.

The Our Lady of Good Counsel school building was vacant throughout the fiscal year. When it is vacant the parish has to pay the utility bills, which are quite expensive. We get a lot of use out of the building, but it is expensive to heat. At the end of the year we were once again in negotiations with the City of Lawrence to lease the building for use as a Kindergarten. The new school is open now and will have a positive impact on our budget in the future. This year we continued to draw from savings to cover our expenses. I am anxious to get this aspect of our finances under control. To this end I made a decision to reduce the amount of our school support to the Lawrence Catholic Academy from $80,000 per year to $40,000 per year. With St. Patrick Parish Our Lady of Good Counsel is one of the founders of the Lawrence Catholic Academy, and as Pastor I serve on the Board of Trustees of the School. Also serving on the Board there is Mr. John LoConte who serves on the OLGC Parish Finance Council. I can tell you that the school is doing extremely well and I feel that Our Lady of Good Counsel should be proud of our contribution to help keep Catholic education available in Lawrence. My interactions with the students always leave me feeling impressed, and many of the future leaders of the Church in our area are being formed in their faith at Lawrence Catholic Academy. Thank you for your support of the school, and please pray for the continued success of LCA.

I am grateful to the Finance Council who advises me in making decisions about parish finances. Deacon Steve, Bill Wallace, Sue Fink, and John LoConte are excellent in this capacity. The employees do so much behind the scenes to keep the parish running smoothly and I am grateful for their efforts day in and day out. So many volunteers work in the parish as well doing everything from assisting at Mass to counting money, from painting to knitting. These efforts are not only signs of life in the parish, but are also daily evidence of the Holy Spirit’s Presence among us.

I never cease to give thanks to Almighty God for you, my brothers and sisters in Christ who call this Parish your own. I never forget that the money I spend is yours. I pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as I continue to lead this parish. I am grateful to so many of you who make this parish what it is. Thank you for your continued financial support of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish which enables us to do the work of God here in our community. Please pray for the Parish and be assured of my prayers for you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Chris

Father Christopher J. Casey
Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish Income was $632,667 and we took $125,000 from savings for expenses

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish FY 2014 Expenses were $757,667
Pictured below is the detail of one of the centerpieces of the stained glass windows in the choir loft of St. Theresa Church.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?” Jesus said to him in reply, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. (The Gospel of Matthew 3:13-17)

Prayer to the Holy Spirit for Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Fill our parish with Your Holy Presence, and guide us to always be a parish that makes the Holy Spirit visible each day in what we say and do. Make our faith strong, through Christ Our Lord. Amen.