

St. Julia Parish – Weston and Lincoln

2007-2008 Annual Report – July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket. It is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds, and glorify your heavenly Father.”

— Matthew 5: 14-16

Dear Friends in Christ,

This Gospel image of light applies to us. In our parish we are blessed to receive the light that is God's love, joy, peace and truth.



Through various activities, in both our church buildings and over all generations, we receive God's light and try to hand it on.

Our life as a community helps us to live the faith. Worship unites us to God.

Formation builds up our understanding of God's Word. Service to others spreads God's light. Here is

a report of the year just past. It shows many specific ways in which God's light has touched us — and others through us.

Father George Evans

Our Ministries In The Past Year

Through Worship, God Has Strengthened and United Us.

• Our sacramental life is strong. Over the past year (July 2007-June 2008) we celebrated 44 Baptisms, 47 First Communions, 38 Confirmations, 10 Marriages and 30 Funerals.

• Vince Ambrosetti sang his way into our parish to lead us in a mission, “Awaken Our Hearts,” that touched young and old. We continue to sing many of his prayerful compositions, and we remember his joyful call to deepen our faith.

• Holy Week celebrations, enhanced by the planning and participation of many parishioners, featured the combined choirs from St. Joseph and St. Julia Churches, the participation of youth in our Good Friday procession with the cross, and an adult Baptism.

• We have continued to offer a very full schedule of Masses: six Masses between two churches for Sundays, including a Sunday evening Mass; and nine Masses during the week, six in one church and three in the other.

• The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults has expanded to provide prayerful support for those becoming Catholics. This past year the process welcomed a few participants at different levels of preparation, with an expanded parishioner-team to assist those preparing to join the Church.

• This year saw an increase in young ones taking part in our Grades K-to-4 Children's Liturgy of the Word, on alternating Sundays during the school year.

• God was praised and “a good time was had by all” at the 2007 Outdoor Mass and Picnic, with a full committee to lead the way and with parishwide enthusiasm to keep this tradition going. Based on hot dog consumption, attendance was over 500!



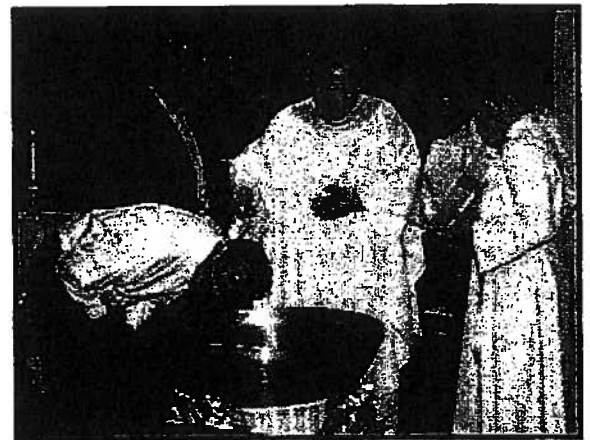
In Faith Formation, We Have Come To Know and Love God.



- Generations of Faith, our twice-yearly inter-generational learning event, this year focused on themes of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the fall and Baptismal commitment in the spring. More than 300 families took part in these events.
- Our expanded and flexible Confirmation Preparation program, with features such as an enhanced location for the yearly retreat and a successfully piloted program on Theology of the Body for Teens, brought a busload of teenagers on a Bicentennial Boston Catholic Heritage Tour. The new approach allows for short-term commitments from volunteer teachers, and it brings many different events into the program's curriculum. The two-year program typically has 60-80 participants and 35-40 annual confirmations.
- Along with other clergy from Lincoln, our pastor composed a regular column on religious themes, "Soundings," for the *Lincoln Journal* newspaper.
- Our new Coffee and Contemporary Catholicism occasional series gave us the chance to hear some fine speakers on important topics: life after death, evolution and Christianity.
- Our two councils and seven commissions have continued to meet regularly to plan for deepened commitment of us all to Christ and Church. The Sodality, the Youth Group, our St. Vincent de Paul Society, our Lenten Prayer Circle, the Women's Spirituality Group, and MOMS (Ministry of Mothers Sharing), also continue to point us toward the light of Christ.
- Two separate days of reflection, planned by the Sodality and others, attracted good numbers to pray and recollect.
- Plans are well underway for our participation in ARISE, the spiritual renewal process in Eastern Massachusetts. We expect to offer ten opportunities for small groups in Weston and Lincoln, with a total participation of 80-100 parishioners.

By Serving Others, We Have Followed in Christ's Path.

- The coming of spring saw the participation of more than 50 energetic parishioners in Rebuilding Boston Together, an ongoing local justice-and-peace effort, to rehabilitate a house in Hyde Park for a family with medical needs. They demonstrated an unflinching willingness to care for poor children.
- After some visits to evaluate our procedures, the Greater Boston Food Bank has declared our parish's Monthly Food Supplement Program, led by the St. Vincent DePaul Society's parish-based group, eligible to receive assistance for its monthly distributions to needy families.
- The Giving Tree, set up in early Advent, gave parishioners of all ages a chance to be generous and gave needy recipients a cheerier Christmas. The St. Julia Thrift Shop's volunteer staff saved items all year long to share Christmas joy with the poor.
- Our staff and those of our neighboring parishes in Wayland and Sudbury have begun gathering together



- regularly to collaborate and work toward more cooperative initiatives among our parishes.
- Our parish priests serve on 24-hour call for emergency pastoral needs at Newton-Wellesley Hospital a few days a month, as do each area parish's priests at various assigned medical centers. Many, many parishioners regularly visit the sick and homebound throughout our parish.
 - Various parish groups have promoted parish drives for food, for supplies, for "baby shower" items, in support of different charities near and far.

- We welcomed a new full-time parochial vicar, who brings twenty years of priestly life and ministry in pastoral service of God and people.

- Three holders of positions of service in our parish have just been designated pastoral associates for particular areas: outreach, faith formation, and liturgy/youth ministry. Our parish business manager's role has been expanded. In the face of a last-minute opening, our interim religious-education director served well for an in-between year.

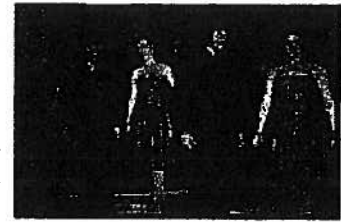
- We have greeted our fifth deacon intern since 2004, and St. Julia Parish has been chosen to serve as the site for field education of the three current Blessed John Seminary students who were pioneers in Blessed John XXIII's new Pre-Theology Program. All assist in our religious education program.

In Community Life and in our Facilities, We Gather.

- Planning for St. Julia Church's renovation, needed both structurally and liturgically, is still taking shape, with a carefully working committee overseeing consultation and deliberation, so as to present a comprehensive plan to the parish in the near future.

- Restoration of St. Joseph Church, Lincoln, interior and exterior, has recently begun.

- Our "April in Paris" sold-out-in-advance-fund-raising social and auction brought us together and aided our ability to keep our parish strong. This year it featured, for the first time, an online "silent auction" that allowed a lot more people to take part.



- Our mystery-solving social, presented once each to adults and middle-school youth, brought some levity amid winter doldrums and contained a Lenten lesson.

- Our ever-developing parish communications system made strides during the year, with adoption of a new PARISHSOFT database for supporting communications, with ListServ communications of parish events to participating parishioners, and with an always changing website.

- Our St. Julia Choir's Christmas Pops attracted a larger-than-ever crowd of people who have come to appreciate its blend of fun and inspiration, and our talented musicians. As is tradition, the program was presented also to the retired Jesuits at Campion Center.

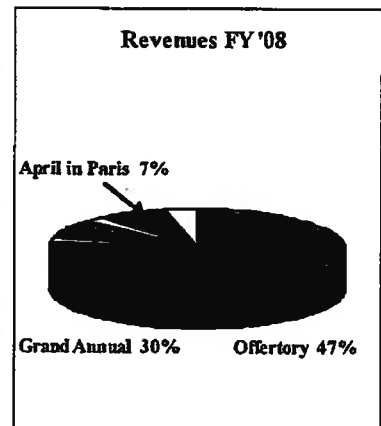
Financial Report

This section discusses our parish finances from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 with a comparison to the previous two years.

Income

Offertory income declined by \$15,000 in comparison to last year. Grand Annual income increased by \$32,000 creating a net increase in these two major revenue streams. Other major increases occurred in Fundraising and Other Income. Our biennial fundraiser, "April in Paris," was extremely successful, netting \$64,000. In Other Income, \$15,000 is the parish's share from exceeding our goal during the Catholic Appeal the previous year and \$3,600 is the usual rebate received three times a year from the bulletin publishing company plus an additional bonus for renewing its contract. The \$24,000 decline in religious education revenue is deceiving. It is not real but only an accounting issue. Prior to this year all religious education revenue collected was recorded in that fiscal year.

However revenues collected in the spring are fees for the following year. This year those fees collected from April to June were recorded as deferred revenue and will appear on the FY '09 report. If one backs out these revenues from '06 and '07, FY '06 does not have such a large net income and FY '07 and '08 no longer have a negative balance.



For those who prefer a graphic representation, the pie chart shows that 77% of our annual revenue came from Offertory and Grand Annual while in this fiscal year 7% came from "April in Paris". Thus, the reminder from Father Evans to please not forget the parish whenever you go away!

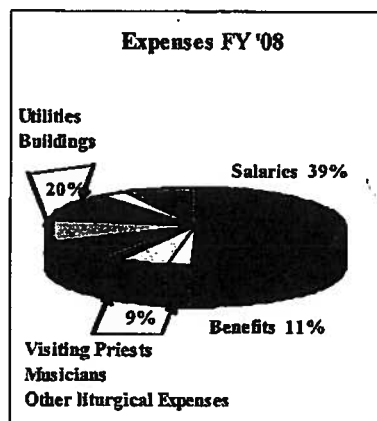
Expenses

Changes in employee compensation (salary and benefits) reflect an annual 3% salary increase and also changes in personnel with different salaries. FY '07 and '08 reflect an additional priest as compared with FY '06. The additional priest decreased the amount for stipends to visiting priests. The major portion of non-employee compensation represents stipends for musicians in both Weston and Lincoln and also includes services in the rectory and maintenance of the website. Hospitality and meeting expenses this past year included the parish picnic, coffees after Mass in both churches, Generations of Faith, the Vince Ambrosetti parish retreat and startup expenses for the Arise program. Given the winter we endured, rising fuel and utilities costs, and maintenance of the buildings plus grounds, the increase is fairly self-explanatory. Lastly, under Furniture and Equipment, our server, a laptop and two monitors needed to be replaced.

The pie chart shows that 50% of our revenue goes to compensation for staff, 9% into expenses associated with liturgy, and 20% into buildings and property.

Cash at the end of FY'08 (June 30)

In the final analysis, regardless of the shifting of revenues or expenses from one fiscal year to another, what most parishioners want to know is how much unrestricted cash we have in our accounts at the end of each year.



	2006	2007	2008
Income			
Offertory	379,746	429,989	414,266
Grand Annual	192,157	232,630	263,990
Sacramental Offerings	19,842	15,694	14,099
Gifts and Bequests	43,582	30,237	6,651
Religious Education	62,975	59,125	35,563
Interest/Dividends	7,867	17,182	16,436
Rental Income	9,625	9,655	9,925
Fundraising: Thrift Shop	15,838	18,559	16,205
Fundraising: Social (Net)	49,597	450	64,161
Fundraising: Other	8,059	475	3,981
Other Income	8,073	6,401	32,499
TOTAL INCOME	797,362	820,397	877,775
Expenses			
Employee Compensation	281,667	336,569	357,390
Benefits and Taxes	87,767	83,056	97,745
Visiting Clergy Stipends	30,550	21,135	23,211
Non employee Compensation	54,795	56,051	47,684
Liturgical Expenses	7,232	7,147	14,247
Office Expenses	35,277	34,254	41,752
Hospitality/Meetings/Workshops	13,163	20,352	29,328
Utilities	80,708	76,052	89,184
Buildings and Grounds	72,258	84,571	90,406
Furniture and Equipment	11,769	10,397	12,542
School Tax	22,382	22,449	25,797
Other	46,032	56,637	70,611
TOTAL EXPENSES	743,599	808,669	899,896
TOTAL INCOME	797,362	820,397	877,775
NET INCOME	53,763	11,728	-22,121
Unrestricted Cash on June 30	197,948	206,202	317,896
Deferred Revenue	24,055	23,500	140,145
Net Unrestricted Cash	173,893	182,702	177,751

The cash at the end of each fiscal year has been adjusted to account for what should have been deferred revenue so that only unrestricted revenue is shown. For example, this past year deferred revenue includes the revenue for the renovation of St. Joseph Church that is just now occurring. Although it looks as if we are sliding backward with a \$22,000 loss after two previous years of net income, research revealed that the last payroll of FY '07 for \$16,000 was recorded with the pay date in July rather than the end of the pay period in June. If you subtract this amount for this year and add it to last year, both years end with approximately a \$6,000 loss. Although our income has increased each year, nevertheless it has not kept pace with the increase in expenses.