

Dear All,

Having finished up – I think – any thoughts that I had that I thought worth communicating on the topic of spirituality, I find myself in the embarrassing position of not being sure what to rattle on about.

So, let's do some very material stuff as a kind of exercise in seeking the spirit in that realm: money, and most specifically, the money you have contributed over the last year. See the attached numbers.

As expected, the number of donors has continued to diminish – age, illness, moving away (even way away!) – and that takes a toll on the amount of weekly income. A number of larger-than-usual gifts have helped to offset those losses, but we cannot count on that kind of individual generosity for budgetary purposes.

Catholics from Arlington, or those who did their weekend worshipping there, are not yet entirely settled in new parochial digs, so it's hard to figure out how that will affect our financial health. On the other hand, the closing of the chapel in Londonderry and a practical burgeoning of new families may offset any losses there. Certainly, the sale of that property will give us a big chunk of cash to let us build up our investment portfolio and keep cash coming in from another area.

FYI: there is reason to think that property will be sold by 12/31. The vacant property to the north of the church in Manchester is once more suffering from LUST (an acronym for petroleum by-product pollution!). So that sale is on hold for now. On the other hand of that, it is hard to imagine that property values can go any lower than they are at present. Patience may pay off.

What I really want to talk about is the continued generosity of Christ our Savior's parishioners. Thanks to that, we have been able to continue the Thanksgiving dinner and our tremendous participation in the Christmas project for kids. This year we will make necessary arrangements to include the Arlington kids who have been formerly covered by the red mitten project. We are also committed to a 50/50 split of the reorganized Summer Lunch project between Manchester and Arlington.

Your generosity has also allowed us, even after putting something aside in our capital improvements account, to make a contribution of \$10,000 to the emergency needs fund of the Interfaith Council. They are the charitable outreach arm of the religious congregations in the Northshire – and increasingly in the area of Arlington and environs – members still of Christ our Savior Parish.

Grateful Hearts is back in our parish hall once more and a whole room in the basement has been given over to a daily AA meeting.

Your Parish continues to be a vital and vitalizing part of the larger community. You make that possible by your generous sharing of God's generosity to you.

On the Parish scene, there is a noticeable lack of actual commitment of time and energy to various programs of the Parish or the community at large. Ask yourself if you could not make a bigger effort *to commit* and, so to make a gift, as well, of the time that and health that God has given you. The front cover of the bulletin has lots of opportunities listed there.

This does not belong to this year's financial report, but you may want to know that you gave more than \$18000 dollars to the two hurricane relief collections (without diminishing your regular Sunday contributions!) When we sent the checks to Burlington, we rounded up to 20.

You may be wondering how I can talk about needing regular income and still talk about giving money away.

If we are not generous with what we have, we will be selfish with it. That is not any part of a Gospel attitude about wealth. Moreover, we cannot budget the large gifts that allow this kind of generosity. Only ongoing and even more generous weekly contributions allow us to share our windfalls with others.

We are not rolling in money, but while we can, we must do good with what we have.

Which brings me to the negative numbers in the report: the cemeteries. The stock market was good to the cemetery investments, but not good enough to offset the work done (and still to be done) in East Dorset. Property sales are earmarked to feed that portfolio so that routine costs are covered, but it would not be taken amiss if some of you decided to make a large gift or bequest or volunteer commitment to these important ministries to those who have husbanded both faith and finances so that we may continue their work in this part of Vermont.

Congratulations are in order – to you, of course – but most of all to God who has blessed us and continues to *bless the giving hand* (and old Irishism).

Really and truly and admiringly yours,  
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Christ Our Savior Parish			St Jerome Catholic Education Fund		
	2016-17	2015-16		2016-17	2015-16
<b>Revenue:</b>			<b>Revenue:</b>		
<b>Taxable Income:</b>			Misc Church Income	211	115
Sunday/Holy Day Collections	190,683	199,614	Investments Income	62,880	6,423
Fuel Collection	18,219	16,390	Interest & Dividends	8	4
Flower Collection	2,846	2,857	Donations & Bequests		
<b>Total Taxable Income</b>	<b>211,749</b>	<b>218,861</b>	<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>63,099</b>	<b>6,542</b>
Misc Church Income	4,865	4,320	<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Christmas/Easter/Catholic Education	15,363	18,175	Assessments, Fees, Postage, License, Rentals, Retreat	5,535	6,217
Bulletin		3,260	Professional Fees	15,600	15,600
Interest and Dividends	126	136	Property Insurance/Liability/Wrkr Comp	1,212	1,223
Votive Candles	2,984	2,413	Supplies & Music	2,029	2,014
Donation & Bequests	62,267	48,600	Repairs & Maintenance	8,980	7,300
Gains/Loss on Sale of Assests	4,700		Communications (phone, cable & net	2,258	2,355
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>302,054</b>	<b>295,764</b>	Utilities (electric, gas, oil & water	4,057	4,472
<b>Expenditures:</b>			<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>39,671</b>	<b>39,181</b>
<b>Diocesan Assessments for Taxable Income:</b>			<b>Net Income or Loss for St Jerome</b>		
Diocesan Tax (7%)	14,822	15,320	<b>Catholic Education Fund:</b>	<b>23,428</b>	<b>-32,639</b>
School Tax (2.5%)	5,294	5,472	<b>Year end Balances:</b>		
Priest's Benefit Fund (7%)	14,822	15,320	Money Market	5,026	5,033
<b>Total Assessments</b>	<b>34,939</b>	<b>36,112</b>	Investments	539,209	516,329
Priests	42,471	39,775		<b>544,235</b>	<b>521,362</b>
Lay Persons	63,578	65,322			
Charitable Contributions	18,074	3,372			
Fees, Postage, License, Rentals, Subscriptions	6,294	10,802			
Parish Life Committee	3,058	2,219			
Property Insurance/Liability/Wrkr Comp	13,838	15,607			
Liturgical Supplies, Retreats, & Music	36,554	38,802			
Janitorial, Office & Misc Supplies	1,899	5,703			
Repairs & Maintenance	22,010	30,711			
Communications (phone, cable & net	3,790	3,639			
Utilities (electric, gas, oil, rubbish & water					
Arlington facilities	5,442	4,837			
Manchester Church	13,597	10,458			
Manchester Rectory	6,223	4,828			
Capital Improvement Savings					
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>271,766</b>	<b>272,188</b>			
<b>Net Income for Christ Our Savior Parish</b>	<b>30,287</b>	<b>23,575</b>			
<b>Year End Balances:</b>					
Checking, Receivables & Petty Cash	107,048	66,799			
Savings, Capital Improvements	73,378	124,895			
St. Margaret Mary, Maintenance Money Market	62,834	62,772			
<b>Total Year End Balance:</b>	<b>243,261</b>	<b>254,465</b>			

  

Christ Our Savior Parish Cemeteries		
	2016-17	2015-16
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Sale of Lots	1,500	300
Perpetual Care Income	1,500	250
Gifts		
Interest	18	24
Investments Income	16,816	1,718
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>19,833</b>	<b>2,291</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Maintenance and Repairs - SJC	67,137	11,758
Insurance & fees		399
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>67,137</b>	<b>12,157</b>
<b>Net Income or Loss for Cemeteries:</b>	<b>-47,303</b>	<b>-9,865</b>
<b>Year end Balances:</b>		
Checking and Savings	7,454	15,189
Certificate of Deposit	165,724	148,908
	<b>173,177</b>	<b>164,097</b>