

Hi

I send this off to you after what has been an exhausting but very exhilarating day. Instead of doing our usual review of the holy day liturgies at this week's staff, we tackled the budget for next year. Today's meeting left me feeling all the more proud and pleased to be part of our ministerial staff. Our task today was to take the preliminary budget, which we have been putting together since January with the help of the Finance Council and Parish Council, and do our best to remove the almost \$75,000 deficit without compromising our mission or doing injustice to any one area. As you can imagine, it was a big challenge. We set aside two hours for the task and all came prepared. The energy in the room was high, as you can imagine. In the end we were pretty close to closing the gap. Everyone was part of the process and I left feeling that we had just made a major step in drawing us closer together as a team of people who deeply care for the life of our parish. I am so proud of our efforts.

You'll be hearing more about this in the future. The next step in the process is to present a final draft to the Finance Council and the Parish Council for endorsement and approval. I am pleased that so many folks have been a part of making this process an educational endeavor.

I am getting ready to crash for a few days so that I can be ready for this weekend's activities. Easter and Holy Week were a smash success for our parish. I am attaching a summary of the events and some numbers that you might find interesting.

Have a great rest of the week.

See you in church and remember, Easter continues!

Ed

Said Ed - April 27 Second Sunday of Easter

Today's mystery of the Lord's resurrection continues to unfold for the fifty days of Easter. Thank you to all who made last Sunday's celebration so wonderful. We received many comments on the beautiful environment that graced our church last weekend. A special thanks to Bev Spencer, Sue Samick, Peggy Whitney, Mary Beth Allen, Mary Ellen Kilmer and Sue Weisenborn who were all part of providing the beautiful worship space. A special gratitude to Sheryl Zabel who coordinated all of our liturgical efforts during Holy Week. On Easter Sunday we had over 3300 people take part in our celebrations. Thank you for your generosity in the support of our parish.

We were particularly blessed with so many visitors that we had to use our primary and secondary overflow areas. At the 9:30 and the 11:30 Masses over 400 parishioners who would otherwise have to stand, were comfortably seated in the air-conditioned Living Room and Great Hall. So much goes on behind the scenes to make our things like this possible. A special thanks to Joe Barnes for providing the video link to our church. I look forward to the day on which the master plan for our video system can be realized. As I stood in the Great Hall during the baptism at 9:30 mass, I realized that the 250 some people who were there could only listen as the baptism took place because, at the moment, we have only one TV camera in church. Hopefully in the near future we'll be able to have multiple cameras so that everyone can see up what is happening more closely. Hopefully we will have this in the not-to-distant future. (Anybody "out there" got \$50,000?)

Thank you to all our musicians for their hard work and beautiful music: Tom McGary and our traditional choir, our many cantors, Johanna Siebert and the children's choir, Chuck Ciruolo with Extreme Faith,

Gerard and Jeannie Weber and Erin Driscoll. All the members of our choirs provided such wonderful support and leadership for our praise and worship together.

Our experiment with the Way of the Cross in the village was an outstanding success. Over 150 people participated in this witness as we processed through the village with members of other Christian denominations. As we walked we prayed for all who serve us. They are part of the ministry of reconciliation that Jesus entrusts to all of us. Thanks to Deni Mack who coordinated this massive effort in her role as president of our local clergy association. It was a job well done.

A special word of thanks to all of our staff who were present at the Masses during the Triduum and Easter Sunday: our staff sacrifices time from their families so that they may serve our parish family and facilitate the many details involved in our liturgical gatherings. I'm not sure that we fully appreciate how dedicated and committed our staff is to the spiritual growth of our parish community. I want to take this opportunity to publicly express my personal gratitude as I invite yours. T

this week I will be attending the annual Bishop's Convocation for all Priests and Pastoral Administrators. It will be held in Auburn, NY. The theme is: "We were never their age -ministering to the 20 to-35 year olds." I am very excited about attending the convocation this year as we continue to unfold plans for our Life Teen Program which very much depends upon support and leadership of young adults. I will be leaving Monday morning after Mass and I ask you to go easy on Fr. Bill while I'm away.

Next weekend we have the joy of celebrating First Holy Communion with 109 families whose children will be receiving the Eucharist for the first time. These celebrations are distributed through out the Sunday liturgies and we expect to have lots of visitors. We invite you to keep in mind the special welcome and hospitality, which are the hallmarks of our parish community. Thanks to the parents and families who have been such an important part of the formation of their children in the way of faith. This celebration is a blessing for our parish as well as an important milestone in the life of our children.

Have a great week!

Ed
Palumbos@dor.org
