

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

**W**ith gratitude to God, Bishop Serratelli and the parishioners of The Church of Christ the King, I am pleased to present our 2018-19 Annual Report.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence (Jer. 17:7). Our hope is born of our faith and our faith is enriched by our prayers. The most significant material upgrade to our Church this past year has been the addition of devotional candles in our Marian Chapel. These custom-made cabinets, adorned with fifty blue votive candles, have increased the prayerfulness of our community. I recommend you sit in the chapel and unite your prayers with the many “flickering prayers” offered by others. It is powerful to know that each lit candle represents a heartfelt prayer of another as we unite all of our prayers along with our Blessed Mother’s intercessions.

Our Parish Community continues to enjoy a lively faith that comes alive not only through the growing worshipping community, but through our many ministries. I am happy to report that forty-five new families have joined the Church of Christ the King over the past year. Our wonderful staff and dedicated parishioners continue to work hard in their various ministries creating a welcoming spiritual, charitable and social home for so many.

Our blessings have also increased in the animal kingdom. After ten years of dormancy, our resident white geese have produced five goslings. I would like to believe that the geese never gave up hope in their desire to produce new life.

Where there is hope, there is faith. Where there is faith, miracles happen. “There are only two ways to live your life; as though nothing is a miracle, or as though everything is a miracle.” (Albert Einstein)

The miraculous birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem coupled, with the miracle of Christ being born at every Mass, allows me to travel through life believing everything is a miracle. The Body of Christ is alive and well in New Vernon thanks to God’s grace, your faith and the ongoing generosity of so many! I hope you enjoy our Annual Report and let us continue to support and care for one another in the name of Christ.

Gratefully,

*Fr. B. Sull*



In Pope Francis' recent post-synodal apostolic exhortation to young people and to the entire People of God, he begins with, "Christ is alive! He is our **hope**, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, **full of life**. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is **alive** and he wants you to be alive!"

In addition to the aforementioned 45 new **families**, we welcomed six new goslings. The **Women's Retreat Day** at Villa Pauline was attended by 30 ladies and the **First Annual "Shrove Tuesday" Pancake Dinner**, prior to the Lenten season, was well received. We celebrated **20 Marriages** and **24 Baptisms**. The staff continued to introduce improvements to our traditional ministries. In March a Lenten **Taizé Prayer Service** was held with the **Music Ministry** lending their voices to this extraordinary time of contemplative prayer. The **Family Based** and **Junior High Religious Education Programs** maintained their success, with continued growth in involvement, especially with our **Annual Christmas Pageant**. In addition, we celebrated the reception of **First Reconciliation** and **First Eucharist** with **23 children** and their families.

**Women of Grace**®, welcomed **new members** in the morning group, including several non-Catholics who were impressed with the content and level of discussions. New members also swelled the evening session. The monthly **Breakfast Club** allows for socialization along with sharing great food. At the Easter Vigil, **John and Melissa Spadaccini** received the **Sacrament of Confirmation**, and their baby, **Lucas**, was **baptized**.

Along with the **Taizé Prayer Service** participation, the **Music Ministry** presented its **Fall Concert** after the blessing of the new roof. In addition, the **Second Music Ministry Retreat**, with St. Patrick's Choir, was held during Lent as well as the annual **Advent/Christmas Concert**.

**Twenty-nine teenagers** received the **Sacrament of Confirmation** in May. The teenagers' annual service week included volunteering locally at **Homeless Solutions** and in urban Philadelphia. Our teenagers continue to exemplify their maturing faith as they shared their experiences during the annual **Rock and Antioch Retreats** with **18 Juniors and Seniors** serving in **leadership** roles. In addition, nearly **30 teens and middle schoolers** participated in **Living Stations**, and our high school students organized our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** and breakfast for the younger families of the parish.

We were once again able to continue our support for Catholic Charities, Eva's Soup Kitchen, the Tri-County Scholarship Fund, Family Promise of Morris County, the Morris County Housing Authority, and the Morris County Correctional Facility, for which Father Brian serves as chaplain. In addition, our **"We Care/We Share" Outreach** initiative distributed funds in its second year to 10 more organizations that met the criteria for the program. The recipients included Catholic Family and Community Services, Community Soup Kitchen, Department of Persons with Disabilities, Eva's Village, John Corr Resource Center, Oasis, Pi-Tech Foundation, Refugee Assistance Morris Partners, RENEW Life Center and Straight and Narrow.

**W**e are a grateful and welcoming Catholic family of faith, nourished by the Word and Eucharist, called to serve as disciples of Christ, the King.

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

Revenues	FY 2020 BUDGET		
	FY 2018	FY 2019	BUDGET
Sunday/Holiday Collections	792,934	787,379	769,195
Christmas & Easter Collections	205,896	193,956	180,000
Stipends (Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals, etc)	57,691	45,524	47,500
Restricted & Extraordinary Donations	104,961	87,460	63,500
Investment Interest & Dividends	14,005	15,224	14,400
Religious Education & Youth Ministry Tuitions	33,150	31,075	29,000
Miscellaneous & Rental Income	39,660	47,426	42,505
Diocesan Collections (Project Faith)	35,815	31,710	30,000
<b>TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS</b>	<b>1,284,111</b>	<b>1,239,754</b>	<b>1,176,100</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Salaries	479,423	489,747	506,953
Benefits and payroll taxes	209,245	208,518	208,620
Office, Rectory, Contract Services	63,938	56,600	54,718
Liturgy & Music	27,329	23,960	27,350
Religious Education & Retreats	17,796	27,739	24,723
Parish Charity	93,946	87,295	47,000
Grounds & Building Maintenance	253,652	210,899	188,736
Catholic Schools Subsidy	21,796	29,353	22,000
Diocesan Assessment (Project Faith)	98,828	98,273	96,000
Reserve for Capital Expenditures <sup>(1)</sup>	18,158	7,370	0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,284,111</b>	<b>1,239,754</b>	<b>1,176,100</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Surplus is used for Capital Expenditures

Jun 30, 19	
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking Account	223,739
Savings Accounts	1,224,394
Investments	3,069,562
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>4,517,695</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
Land & Buildings	6,681,032
Furniture & Fixtures	675,043
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>7,356,075</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>11,873,770</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Equity</b>	
Retained Earnings	11,866,400
Net Income	7,370
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>11,873,770</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>11,873,770</b>



Taizé Prayer Service



Baptisma at Easter Vigil



Fall Concert



Women's Retreat Day



Christmas Concert



Living Stations of the Cross



First Communion

# FINANCIAL REPORT

In summary, our Parish remains debt-free and in stable financial condition. For our fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, total receipts slightly exceeded our total expenses by \$7,370 (1%), and we were able to continue to replenish some of the Capital Reserves that were used in prior fiscal years when the Parish did not meet its operational budget. Please see the detailed sections below that provide a framework to the accompanying pro-forma income statement and our budget for next fiscal year (from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020).

For the past few years, we have communicated the importance of regular weekly offerings throughout the year. Similar to your household, there are numerous recurring utility expenses (in addition to salary and benefits) that must be paid monthly. Some parishioners are taking advantage of the “eGiving” method provided by **FaithDirect** (in which you may use your credit card). Similar to last year, we are pleased to report that there was a **1.5% increase** over the prior fiscal year using this method. Whichever method is chosen (some individuals prefer to have their bank mail the contributions directly to the parish, while many continue to use their weekly envelopes. The participation of **ALL parishioners** is essential to ensure continued growth of our parish and the success of our programs, ministries, and outreach endeavors.

As reported in the summary financial statement, parish receipts totaled **\$1,239,754** for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, which exceeded the budget by approximately \$80k. This **allowed** us to increase our **Parish Charitable Giving** to a near record **\$87,295** to more than **62 organizations / charities**, including the “*We Care/We Share*” initiative (see details on the back page). With the additional **new families**, our Sunday, Christmas and Easter collections were within 1% of our previous record.

Restricted & Extraordinary Donations exceeded budget by \$35,960 including the “We Care/We Share” Outreach ministry, which allowed us to continue to meet the needs of many local organizations. We continue to assume additional donations for next fiscal year, but as previously communicated, these unanticipated special gifts are difficult to predict. We ask parishioners to continue to remember the parish as you plan your charitable giving. Bequests from deceased parishioners or gifts in celebration of special occasions in the lives of our living members are a meaningful way to mark an anniversary or event and are very much appreciated by the parish.

Religious Education and Youth Ministry Tuitions decreased by 6% from the prior year, and we have assumed a further reduction of 7% next fiscal year to reflect the current number of children and youth enrolled in the various ministries.

Total Operating Expenses (excludes extraordinary repairs and Capital improvements) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 totaled \$1,232,384 compared to our budget of \$1,160,000 and reflects the inclusion of the aforementioned payments distributed to the various charities.

As published in the Financial Statements on the Diocesan website, the Lay and Priest **pension plans** are significantly **underfunded**. The Diocese continues to explore ways to fund these obligations, but currently bills the Parishes (similar to the annual Diocese Assessment) even though the pension plan was frozen and has been replaced with a traditional “defined contribution” plan. For next year’s fiscal year, the Parish will still be billed 8% of the total salaries for our employees who are eligible for the “frozen” Pension Plan, but will no longer be invoiced at 3% of their annual earnings for the Retirement Savings Plan, which was the method the Diocese used this fiscal year. As a

result, the Benefit and Payroll Taxes our budget remains flat for next fiscal year although the actual benefit costs increase on average of 5% each year.

## Capital Expenditures

As previously communicated, there is a distinction between Capital Projects and the annual Operating result detailed above. Capital Projects are expenditures that are required for safety and enhancements to our Parish assets and are funded from our Capital reserve accounts, parishioners’ designated gifts, and Partners-in-Faith Campaign rebates. This past fiscal year the following projects were completed: Choir Loft renovation, New Sound System installation, and upgrade of the Water Treatment System. Three major projects scheduled for next fiscal year are restoration of the Steeple, replacing the Parish Hall French doors and a state-of-the-art audio-visual system connecting our worship space with the Parish Hall.

Our Building and Grounds Committee works diligently and tirelessly “behind the scenes” to ensure your safety and to maintain and enhance our campus assets. A special “thank you” to Committee Members: Kim Caldwell, Frank Cauterucci, Tamera Coelho, Paul Gisone, Tom McDermott, Jim Novotny, Jim Savage and Larry Wepler (chair).

## Parish Investment Account

Capital reserves from the parish investment accounts are drawn upon in years of operating deficits, e.g., 2014-15 fiscal year. Operating surplus income is deposited into the parish **investment accounts**. As of **June 30, 2019**, the Parish had \$4,293,956 in (restricted and non-restricted) savings. (Please reference the pro-forma Balance Sheet.) Our parish policy requires at least six months of operating expenses to be held in liquid assets such as cash, certificates of deposits, and money market accounts. The balance is invested in long-term diversified, high-quality equity, and fixed income investments. Non-restricted parish savings are available for ongoing repairs to our parish buildings and other capital expenditures.

*Sister Mary Joseph has been elected as a General Councilor of the Sisters of Christian Charity, representing North America on the General Leadership Team. In addition, Sister is the Vicarress of the Congregation. She begins a six-year term in Germany and will be traveling to various countries where the Sisters minister. Sister will also represent the Superior General during her times of absence from the Generalate. She is very grateful for your prayerful support in this new ministry and promises to remember all at CTK. She can be reached at [srmjosephs@yahoo.com](mailto:srmjosephs@yahoo.com).*



## “WE CARE/WE SHARE” OUTREACH MINISTRY

Pope Francis recently celebrated his fifth anniversary as the spiritual head of the world’s 1.2 billion Roman Catholics. Throughout this time, he has spent much of his papacy towards practices that reach out to society’s poor and marginalized. It is in this spirit that our Parish expands its current and future outreach programs with the introduction of:



### Mission Statement

*Guided by Christian values, the primary purpose is to benefit organizations serving the deserving and economically disadvantaged within the Paterson Diocese, and specifically within the surrounding communities of the Parish.*

Through the generosity of a prior bequest, this initiative was launched to both strengthen and streamline our parish’s role as a charitable Catholic community. In establishing the initial Fund, parishioners have pledged contributions which were then matched from interest generated from the bequest. We need annual ongoing donations to keep the We Care/We Share Fund operational. Parishioners can be assured that every dollar donated will continue to be matched by the parish.

An Advisory Board has been appointed that diligently reviews all funding applications and, where they align with the mission statement, analyzes each one to provide financial help in a way that represents a fair and prudent allocation of available funds.

In the spirit of Catholic charity and fellowship, which has always led our Parish to share its good fortune with our disadvantaged neighbors, we passionately hope you will join us in supporting our new outreach program. If you have any questions regarding this newly established Fund and/or would like more information in order to contribute, please contact the parish office at (973)539-4955.

Please review all the documentation associated with this Fund using the following link: [www.churchofchristtheking.org/wcws](http://www.churchofchristtheking.org/wcws).



CHURCH OF  
**CHRIST  
THE KING**  
NEW VERNON, NJ

Church of Christ the King  
Blue Mill Road  
PO Box 368  
New Vernon, NJ 07976  
973-539-4955  
[churchofchristtheking.org](http://churchofchristtheking.org)  
Rev. Brian Sullivan, *pastor*

©2019 Church of Christ the King

## FUNDING APPLICATION PROCEDURE FLOWCHART

Funding Application is received by the Outreach Endowment Advisory Board



General assessment is made as to whether the organization meets most of the Fund’s criteria



If more information is needed (in the case of a non-organization), an Advisory Board Member will perform the necessary investigative work (e.g., phone calls, internet searches, etc.)



The (completed) Application will be logged and a response letter from the Advisory Board will be sent acknowledging receipt and explaining the review process and timing



During a regularly scheduled meeting, the Advisory Board will review and determine whether an organization should/should not be included on the final recommendation list. (If “No,” the Advisory Board sends a letter of explanation to the requesting organization.)



Prior to the end of May and November, the Advisory Board meets for final review of all application requests and reaches agreement on what it deems a prudent and fair allocation of the available funds.



Final funding recommendations are submitted to Pastor for approval.

Note: For each fiscal year, the Pastor shall have sole discretion to approve and distribute up to twenty percent (20%) of the annual funded amount.