

Saints Simon and Jude Finance Council

2020 Annual Letter to the Parish

Towards the end of fiscal year 2020 (ending June 30, 2020), we all experienced a tremendous amount of personal and professional challenges due to the pandemic. We sincerely hope that 'you and yours' are continuing to fare well, as we endure this very different environment which continues into fiscal year 2021.

Every year the Finance Council has the obligation of writing to you on the financial health of the parish. Bottom line, the Parish was able to close the year in a positive financial position, though it has not been without its financial challenges. As you will see in this report, the Parish achieved a net operating surplus of \$352,270, down from \$644,410 in FY 2019, driven by the pandemic environment. We deeply respect that there may be an abundance of financial matters which many are facing, so we thank you for your continued financial support which enables us to be remain in a positive stance. In addition, I am grateful to the members of the Finance Council for their dedication, expertise, and advice offered to Fr. Gerlach for the benefit of the Parish.

We thought to share with you an abbreviated list of activities that the parish has undertaken in order to continue operations in our wonderful Church and School. Note that in addition to your contributions, we were aggressive in seeking and obtaining appropriate government grants, which certainly contributed to the parishes' ability to sustain activities, particularly during the most severe 'close-down' period last Spring. Moving forward in fiscal year 2021, we remain cautiously optimistic on our finances, and will continue to provide prudent advice, guidance & make respectful recommendations to Fr. Gerlach on the use of parish financial resources.

Here are highlights on Church and School activities of recent:

- **Church:**

- Mass attendance resumed socially distant-Live and via Simulcast-Live
- Install systems for Live streaming and improved sound system
- Continuation of the Sacraments: funerals, baptism, marriage
- A shift to more on-line giving (instruction on our website)
- Strict adherence to COVID-19 guidelines from the Archdiocese
- Communication kept open with parishioners, rectory office accessible
- More volunteers at Mass: provided a safe and confident atmosphere with seating layout, guidance by ushers, seating families together, increased cleaning before and after each Mass.
- Continuation of in person PREP by setting up classrooms in The Meehan Center and in available spaces on the main level of the Church. Other options also available for parents/students

- **School:**

- School Open – classroom reset with desks socially distant, cohorts, increased cleaning
- Options for students: in school, all virtual learning, combination of both. Seat reserved for each student.
- Increase in Staff to provide increased housekeeping, sanitation, safety, and other health safety guidelines.
- Substantial investments, virtual classroom technology: cameras, iPads, Chromebooks, microphones, tripods
- Parent volunteers to help with boxed lunch service
- Before/after school CARES to help ease families schedule with work in office and work at home

In closing, on behalf of the Finance Council, we thank you in advance for your continued generous financial commitments! Our Parish is resilient, thanks to your engagement in our community. Stay healthy, be safe, and be well everyone!

Respectfully,

Mike Bray for the Finance Council

SEE OTHER SIDE

Finance Council members: Rev. Michael J. Gerlach; Sister Regina Elinich, IHM; Kathy Breslin; Susan Burke; Ralph Celidonio; Gene Cleary; Annette Glauzel; Ray Mazza