



## 2013-2014 Year Results Thru February 28, 2014

Saint Bernard Parish financial results through the first eight months of the current fiscal year have taken a significant negative turn. As of the end of February, the Parish is running at a deficit of \$43,028 excluding Cemetery operations. The high-level breakdown of revenue and expense for this period (July 1, 2012 thru June 30, 2013) was as follows:

Total Revenue	\$1,249,422
Total Expense	\$1,292,450
Excess Expense over Revenue	\$43,028

At the same time last year, the Parish was operating at a surplus of \$75,304.

There are two major contributors to this deficit. First, plate collections are down \$34,513 year over year. As you may recall, the current year budget was built with the assumption that plate contributions would be flat year over year. The harsh winter weather has had some impact on this result effecting church attendance.

In addition, the numerous winter storms have generated a significant increase in our snow removal cost, which was also based on last year's actuals. Year over year, our snow removal cost is up by \$30,266. Please remember that the decision was made several years ago to insource our snow removal versus using external contractors. Had we continued to use contractors, the cost to remove this year's numerous snowfalls would easily have been double our internal cost to perform this function.

Based on our current course, the Finance Council expects that the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year will close with a deficit in excess of \$90,000.

Several initiatives have been developed to help close this gap with your help and are covered in the remainder of this Update.

## How You Can Help Close the Financial Gap

Realizing the impact the severe winter weather has had on our financial results, a one-time special collection will be taken to offset the unexpected cost in snow removal. This collection will be taken as the second collection on Easter Sunday. You should already have received an extra envelope in the mail along with the normal Easter Envelope for use with this special collection. The Finance Council thanks you in advance for your consideration of supporting this much needed additional collection.

Additional emphasis is being placed on maximizing the revenue from the upcoming Parish Golf Outing. If you are a golfer we strongly urge you to consider attending this year's event on May 13<sup>th</sup>. If you are not a golfer, we ask you to consider becoming a sponsor of the event if you own a business or recruit someone you know to be a sponsor. Another easy way to support the event is to contribute an item for our merchandise raffle or live auctions. We are looking for gift certificates and any items that would enhance our gift table. Last but not least, we will be conducting a 50/50 raffle after masses beginning the weekend of April 26<sup>th</sup>.

You can register to play and/or sign up to be a sponsor by filling out and returning the golf brochure that was distributed in last week's bulletin, picking up a copy at the Scrip Table, or downloading the form from the Parish website. If you can contribute an item(s) for our merchandise raffle or auction please pick up a donation form at the Scrip Table and fill it out.

The Parish will be conducting a Stewardship Treasure Renewal in the near future to help stabilize the weekly plate collection. More information will be provided after Easter.

Please consider maintaining or increasing your weekly giving. If you miss mass on a given weekend, please plan on making up that contribution. Finally consider enrolling in ParishPay to make your contributions.

## THANK YOU

The Finance Council wishes to extend a Thank You to all Parishioners for the continued financial support provided to our community. Also, please keep our Parish in your prayers to assure the vitality and growth of our community and its various ministries.