

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This week, in conjunction with the parish finance committee, I am presenting our financial Statement of Activities for 2020. We make such a presentation in the bulletin each year in order to be good stewards of the treasure that you generously give for the building up of our parish community. This letter, in a slightly adapted form, will be sent to all addresses on our parish mailing list in the next couple of weeks. I would like to present it here, too, so that as many parishioners as possible can access it. It should also help us to prepare for the meeting on the 18th, which I hope many of you will be able to attend. We will work to live-stream the meeting and have a chat function enabled so you can participate from home.

Our 2020 results were severely hampered by the Coronavirus. The restrictions imposed by authorities as well as our desire to keep all of our parishioners safe continues to affect our activities to this day. Fortunately, we were able to avail ourselves of a loan under the Paycheck Protection Program which will be forgiven offsetting the detrimental effects caused by the virus. The amount of \$224,267 is listed as a separate line item on the 2020 financial statement included with this letter. A few other comments on the statement worth noting:

- Collections **decreased** by 9.6% from the prior year. They are currently trending to be an additional 10% **lower** for this financial year.
- Nursery School revenue **decreased** by 19.4% from the prior year.
- Faith Formation revenue **decreased** by 11.4% from the prior year.
- Operation Expenditures **declined** by 5.8% from the prior year and we continue to closely monitor all expenditures.
- Exclusive of the loan mentioned above we incurred an operating **deficit** of (\$119,277) for 2020 compared to a surplus of \$65,173 in 2019.

As mentioned above, collections continue to decline. In fact, the amount of collections in 2020 was 18.4% **less** than in 2009 (11 years ago) and that doesn't account for the effects of inflation. This level of giving is not sufficient to cover the operating expenditures of the parish and the repairs that continually have to be made to our aging facilities. We know that many of you are suffering financial hardship due to the economic impact caused by the Coronavirus. We pray for you, and our outreach services are always ready to assist. If you have been fortunate enough not to have been as deeply effected at this time, and have just not been making your normal contribution, we ask you to make it a point to resume your donation. You can send a check by mail or deposit it in the mailbox outside the Parish Office. Cash contributions should not be mailed, but instead dropped off in the mailbox. We advise you also to consider enrolling in the Faith Direct Program. Once you set up your contribution in Faith Direct, your donation happens automatically and saves you the time and effort of writing and mailing checks: one less thing to think about. A copy of the application is attached for your convenience. Staff and volunteers are also available to assist you in enrolling, just give us a call. We would also ask that you take the time now to examine the amount you are giving and if you are able increasing the amount so we can meet the ongoing needs of the parish.

We sincerely hope to continue to offer all of the programs that have made our parish a place of spiritual nourishment for Babylon and the surrounding communities. We rely on your donations to make that hope a reality. We now share with you a little of what we have accomplished, even under the challenges of the Coronavirus, in 2020.

Our Nursery School is open for business and safely educating our children. The school has adopted all new protocols to keep our over 200 students safe in the classrooms. Even during quarantine teachers were working with students from afar to help their development and education.

Our outreach services continued to provide food for those in need throughout quarantine. Our staff and volunteers heroically and generously gave of their time to make sure that people had food to eat, even when many other programs had closed. Over 135 families were aided. Our Back to School, Thanksgiving, and Christmas distributions (including the Angel Brigade and Giving Tree) helped families to enjoy these special moments. We also covered many families from Copiague who lost their access to outreach services due to a fire in the parish there. When we knew our neighbors were sick with COVID, we were also able to help them with home deliveries, together with the help of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Spiritually, we have provided all with access to over 55 hours of video content, all of which was produced here. And that doesn't include our daily live-streams of Mass, with Sunday Masses live-streamed in both English and in Spanish, which began only two days after we went into quarantine. All of these videos can be found on the video archive page of our parish website, or on our Vimeo page. At a time where many catering halls have been unable to accommodate families for special events, we have been able to continue to help couples get married, parents baptize their children, and young parishioners receive first holy communion and first penance. Our priests have been out to anoint the sick, bless houses, bury the dead. Here at the parish, all are able to find a safe and solemn place to worship God.

In other words, while the Coronavirus certainly brought changes, it has never stopped our parish. We pray that our financial situation will not either. If you have any questions regarding donations, or if you would like more information about how to donate, know that our office staff is here to assist you, as is a new team of volunteers dedicated to parish development. Please prayerfully consider how you may be able to aid our community, yes financially, but also by volunteering. Our goal is not simply to sustain our great community, but make it to grow. Thank you in advance for your prayerful reflection on these topics.

Sincerely,
fr. Jason U. Grisafi