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# St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Shrub Oak, NY

First Parish in the World Named in Honor of the First American-Born Saint

Founded 1963

## PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

to The Catholic Church at Shrub Oak, New York

January - December 2013

Patronal Feast Day, January 26, 2014

In the *Year of Grace 2013*, we celebrated the final 6 months of our year-long parish Golden Jubilee with the usual Seton simplicity and gusto, including: *Tea with The Setons*, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Seton beatification and the naming of our parish, the restoration of our 1896 bronze bell, a pilgrimage to Emmitsburg, MD, and a *Mass of Thanksgiving* on **June 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

All 3 of our priests celebrated our sixty-fifth birthdays in 2013! Along with Deacon Michael Wilson, we celebrated an unprecedented 12 years of effective, collaborative ministry. We said FAREWELL to Julianna Santha, longtime rectory cook and Fred Van Riper, longtime plant manager and accountant; and HELLO to our own Deacon Richard Juliano, as the Seton Plant Manager, Gerry O'Shaughnessy, our weekend custodian, and Carmela Costa (Emmaus Accounting), parish accountant. 5 parishioners became lay chaplains for the Hudson Valley Hospital Center, assisting the Catholic priest-chaplain, whose position is supported by 5 local parishes. In addition, 4 parishioners began representing us on the Archdiocesan Making All Things New Committee (consolidation of parishes); and 6 parishioners established the Seton Parish Center Building Committee (PCBC) under the direction of Zubatkin Owner Representation, LLC, of New York City. The newly chosen architectural firm, DCAK-MSA of Nyack, has sought the advice of parish groups to ascertain maximum use and scope of the proposed Seton Parish Center. A building site is being researched as well.

Seton School embraced an historic change with a strategic plan called, *Pathways to Excellence*, as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, with the Archdiocesan-wide regionalization of (most) parish schools. Our school, and 3 others, became part of the *Northern Westchester and Putnam School Region* with its office in Beacon. Longtime parishioners, Tom Engelhart, and Frank Inzirillo (pending) and I sit on the Board. With a (pending) lease, the Region assumed complete control and support of our school.

Now, instead of each parish bearing the overwhelming, financial burden of its parochial school, 23 parishes support the 4 remaining schools in our Region, with each parish serving as landlord of its school. As such, parishes with schools are responsible only for the capital expenditures of its buildings. Naturally, to assure that all the schools will thrive, the annual parish assessment of ALL parishes in the Archdiocese was slightly increased.

**SETON SCHOOL (Pre-K – Grade 8): 333 students; 26 faculty members; 1 nurse; 3 staff members**

Since 1966, Sister Gabriel Obraz, Sister of Charity and her staff, has inspired an excellent faculty and students with the unique dedication of a consecrated Religious Woman, and we are very grateful. *St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, pray for us!*

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (Grades 1 - 8): 1291 students; 150 catechists/aides/babysitters**

Mrs. Sara Koshofer and her staff work tirelessly to bring the Faith to life among her volunteer staff and hundreds of students, sparing nothing in an effort to "care and feed" their spiritual lives, and we are very grateful. *St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, pray for us!*

**PARISH POPULATION: 2372 participate at Sunday Eucharist; 131 new families/individuals have been registered.**

**2013 CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL:**

Goal of \$123,000 was exceeded: \$138,238 pledged; \$137,383 paid; 615 gifts.

Record: we are the parish with the 7<sup>th</sup> largest number of gifts/donors out of all 368 parishes!

# WORSHIP, EDUCATION, COMMUNITY BUILDING & SERVICE

*Seton volunteers*, who work regularly with children in our parish, must submit to a background check by the Archdiocese, and complete a “Safer Spaces” seminar, either at Seton or online. *Seton employees*, who work regularly with children, must submit to a background check and attend a more in-depth seminar, “Protecting God’s Children.” (See “Safer Spaces” below.)

Here is a comprehensive, though *not exhaustive*, list of the activities of our amazing parish family:

## Participants

indicates something new

- 130 Anointing of the Sick Mass, Annual
- +++  Anniversaries: 100 Sr. Gabriel’s Profession (60<sup>th</sup>) 250 Msgr. Sandi’s Ordination (40<sup>th</sup>)
- 143 Ball, 5<sup>th</sup> Annual, in benefitting the *Seton Benevolent Fund*; 26 volunteers; **PROFITS: \$10,910**
- +++ Bereavement Ministry 250 Annual B. Mass; 250 Annual Children’s Memorial Mass; 100 “9-11” Memorial Mass
- 20 Bible Study, Parish, Tuesday mornings
- 70 Birthday blessings, monthly; small gifts distributed at our monthly (Saturday Vigil) Children’s Mass
- 300 Birthday celebrations (3), priests’ 65<sup>th</sup>
- 85 Blessing of Animals (pets), *The Gathering of the Creatures Choir*, in honor of St. Francis of Assisi
- +++ Blood Drives (2) 131 units of blood donated for the Hudson Valley Blood Services
- +++ Book Clubs (2): 9 Altar and Rosary; 10 Parish
- +++ Boy Scouts: 2 Eagles; 2 Courts of Honor; 90 Advent Calendar; 40 Advent Candle sets; 21 Summer Camp
- 65 *Children’s Liturgy of the Word*, alternate Sundays
- +++ Choir Concerts: Adults: 8 Christmas (Mohegan Manor); Children: 8 Christmas; 12 Spring (Treetops);
- +++ Church-State relations: Pins: 140 *It’s All Right to Wish Me a Merry Christmas*; Magnets: 51 *Keep Christ in Christmas*
- 130 Communion Breakfast, winter, sponsored by the Holy name Society
- 60 Communion Breakfast, fall, sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society
- +++ Cub Scouts: 260 *Giving Tree*, for foster care kids and Midnight Run; 6 *Light of Christ* awards; 8 *Parvuli Dei* awards
- 142 CYO Basketball: 4 Scholarships Coaches (20)
- 40 Day of Recollection, Annual, Parish, sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society
- 50 Devotional Scripture booklets, *The Word Among Us* (monthly)
- 1210 “Diapers, Wipes and Onesies” drive
- 27 Dinner Theatre Trip, Christmas, sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society
- +++ Food Pantry, Community, at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church [see “Outreach” below]
- +++ Girl Scouts Awards: 1 *Family of God*
- 53 Golf Outing, sponsored by the Holy Name Society; proceeds funded pilgrimages to New York and Emmitsburg, MD
- +++ Homebound Parishioner Visitation: 53 Bi-monthly; 62 Christmas (Holy Name Society)
- 900 Missalettes, 2014 *Word and Song Books*, and “give-aways” of 2013 edition to parishioners
- 600 Mission, Annual Lenten, with Fr. Matthew Grier (Scotland) former Seton parochial vicar
- +++ “Movie Nights”  35 (Sundays, Friday); sponsored by A& R Society;  200, Lent, Fr. Barron’s Catholicism series (5)
- 14 “News Flash,” email “blasts” to 1157 parishioners
- +++ Nursing Home visitation: “Treetops,” 16 Masses (2 x month); 2 Mohegan Manor Masses (2 x year) (300+ residents)
- +++ Outreach 7 *March for Life*; Food Pantry Family meals: 140 (weekly), 223 (holidays); 20 *Night of Prayer for Life*; 500 *Midnight Run*; Birthright Walk; PAPA Meal Program; 120 *United for Troops pkgs.*; 21 *Helping Hands Meals*; 4 *Adopt-a-Family* (Christmas)  
Legion of Mary visits: Rosary at Holy Comforter / Mohegan Manor; Rosary Rally
- 85 Pastors, Deceased, Remembrance Masses: Msgr. A. Nugent (Nov. 27, 1981); Msgr. E. Fogarty (Aug. 2, 1996)
- +++  Pilgrimages, Parish: 52 Emmitsburg, MD; 31 England
- 15 Prayer Shawl Ministry (224 pieces), Knitters, Altar and Rosary Society
- +++ Raffle, Monthly 50/50 (9), **PROFITS: \$6,960** for the parish *Emergency Maintenance Fund*
- 241  Readers’ Theater: “Touching the Soul” (2) (17 readers; 52 pieces) at Winery at St. George & O. L. Mem. Chapel
- 425 *Reconciliation Mondays* (2), Archdiocesan-wide individual confessions: Lent (3 – 9 PM) & Advent (4 to 8 PM).
- +++ Religious Education 2 Archdiocesan Certificates 17 Sun. classes (2 x month) + 8 AM Mass 58 classes (Mon., Wed., Thu.)  
85 Catechetical Commissioning 17 classes, Saturday (2x month) 165 Retreat (7<sup>th</sup> grade) 170 (2<sup>nd</sup> grade), 170 Retreat (8<sup>th</sup> grade)  
1 Pre-Confirmation Mass (8<sup>th</sup> grade) 3 *Masses in Slow Motion* (2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade) 600 Officer MacDonald speech

- +++ **Retreat, Annual Mens: 15**; sponsored by Holy Name Society [Holy Family Retreat House, W. Hartford, Connecticut]
- +++ **Retreat, Annual Womens: 23**; sponsored by Altar and Rosary Soc. [San Alfonso Retreat House, Long Branch, NJ]
- +++ **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), Catechumenate, *Becoming a Catholic***  
 1 Adult Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist; 2 Received into the Catholic Church, 0 Rite of Continuing Conversion (Lent 2), [Candidates for Sacraments at Sacred Heart, Newburgh]; 0 *Rite of Welcome* (Advent 1) [Catechumens and Candidates for the Sacraments]; 0 *Rite of Sending* (Lent 1); 0 Rite of Election (Lent 1) [Catechumens at St. Patrick's Cath.]
- 50  **Rosary Rings for homebound parishioners**, Respect Life Committee
- 1200 **Rosaries** missionary and locals (via Legion of Mary) distributed by our Rosary Makers
- 70 **Roundtable**, discussion group
- +++ **Sacramental Statistics, Basic** (Sep. 1, 2012 – Aug. 31, 2013):  
 2 Adult Baptisms      108 Masses of Christian Burial    1 Received into Full Communion    12 Marriages  
 95 Anointing of the Sick    85 Infant/Children Baptisms    208 Confirmations    207 First Reconciliation/First Eucharist
- 30 **Safer Spaces Seminars** (4) for *all* those who work with children at Seton [see box at top of **page 2**].  
 Recertifying of the archdiocesan background checks for all employees and volunteers was begun.
- 50 **Santa Claus, Meet the Original**, parent and children blessing honoring St. Nicholas of Myra
- +++ **Seton School statistics:**      210 Awards Night    1000 Midnight Run lunches    625 Book Fairs (2)    800 Cards for Shut-ins  
 32 Confirmation Retreat    34 Graduates    650 Christmas Fair    355 St. Patrick's Day    85 Retired Sisters reception    1775 Circus  
 135 Open House    525 Christmas Pageant    650 Food Pantry    880 Family Thanksgiving, Svc.    80 Regional Teachers Conference
- 14 **Social Receptions** by Hospitality Committee (7)
- 80 **Tag sale** (2 weekends), sponsored by Altar and Rosary Society; 2100 attendees **PROFITS: \$21,181.65**
- 1000  **"Tea with the Setons"** Jubilee event; 500 "Live Simply that Others May Simply Live" bumper stickers
- +++ **Thanksgiving Service, 90 Interfaith Service; 120 Thanksgiving Day Mass**
- 60 **Vacation Bible Week** by Religious Education Program
- 215 **Volunteer Workers' Appreciation Dinner**, parish patronal feast day weekend, January 2013
- +++ **Website, Parish statistics: [seton-parish.org](http://seton-parish.org)**  
 100 **Daily Views** (average) **Top Visitors** (by nation): 35,599 USA; 124 Canada; 121 United Kingdom; 111 Philippines; 57 Australia  
**Top Pages: Home, School, Mass & Sacraments, Rel. Ed., Eucharist, Parish History, Good Old Prayer, Directions, Parish Groups**
- +++ **Wedding Jubilee blessing and reception: 4 Silver Anniversary couples; 6 Golden Anniversary couples**

## **STEWARDSHIP**

Financially, **we finished 2013 in the RED**; yet I can report the **overall state of the parish is "stable."** You will notice on **page 4** the categories **marked with asterisks (\*)** reflect the operations and support of **our school**, which **ended on August 31<sup>st</sup>**, when the Archdiocesan Regional Board assumed total responsibility. Given that, and your continued generous support, our financial picture will surely improve. We thank **Ed Murgia** and the other **Finance Council** members, who have been more intentional than ever in volunteering their professional advice to me and to the parish accountant.

Once again, several, large purchases, amounting to *thousands of dollars*, were **underwritten by parishioners** who prefer to remain anonymous. You should know that **5% of your overall donations went to EXTERNAL charities** through second collections; e.g., Archdiocesan and national collections.

For **50½ years**, God has enriched our vibrant parish with the cooperation of thousands of remarkable parishioners. Still, given that we will always have to meet rising expenses, some of which we have little control, I have increased *my* personal donations to Seton, and I ask you to **please consider increasing your weekly Offertory donation (first collection), by \$5.00**, or by whatever amount you think fair. I trust your judgment in this matter.

For almost 12 years, I have made sure every donated dollar is accounted for and "squeezed" to maximum pastoral effect. I promise you more of the same. My fellow priests, deacons, Religious and exceptional lay leaders (especially on the Parish Council) are absolutely committed to a responsible, transparent ministry of love. **Thank you** for the privilege of serving you, and for the sacrifices you make, every day, for God and "the greatest parish in the world."



Monsignor Thomas P. Sandi, Pastor  
January 26, 2014

# PARISH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Shrub Oak, NY

## January - December 2013

Mrs. Carmela Costa, Parish accountant (as of July 1<sup>st</sup>)

### INCOME

<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	
1,098,000	1,089,000	First Collections, Sunday & Holy Day
1,442,000	641,000	* Tuition, parish school
69,000	13,000	* Books / supplies / cafeteria
265,000	278,000	* Fundraisers, Church
95,000	118,000	* Mandated Services, NY State
255,000	202,000	** Miscellaneous / Donations
243,000	248,000	Tuition and fees, Religious Education Program
<u>80,000</u>	<u>78,000</u>	Emergency Maintenance
<b>\$3,547,000</b>	<b>2,667,000</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>

### EXPENSES

<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	
2,158,000	1,692,000	* Salaries, pension benefits, payroll tax
395,000	297,000	* Insurance (medical / liability), employee
103,000	111,000	* Maintenance / repairs / contracted services
84,000	99,000	* Utilities (including assessed water tax)
107,000	39,000	* Supplies, school and office
152,000	143,000	Supplies and equipment, church building, etc.
96,000	87,000	Supplies, rectory office and living quarters
152,000	130,000	Personnel & books, Religious Education Program
14,000	12,000	Capital improvements
<u>85,000</u> (partial)	<u>237,000</u>	* Parish Assessment ( <i>Cathedraticum &amp; school tax</i> )
<b>\$3,346,000</b>	<b>\$2,847,000</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>
<b>+ \$201,000</b>	<b>- \$180,000</b>	<b>NET</b>

\* PARISH SCHOOL Expenses are listed through August 31, 2013, after which our school became a part of the No. Westchester/Putnam Region. ALL BILLS are forwarded to the Regional School Office.

\*\* MISCELLANEOUS Donations / Fees / Offerings / Gifts include the following:

Religious Education Program fees, Sunday Bulletin advertisement rebate, parishioner gifts and estate bequests, donations from Parish Groups, anonymous donations, votive lights, Vestment and Vessel Fund, Bruno Fund and INTERNAL charities (*Young Seton Cares and Seton Benevolent Fund*)