

FINANCES, MAINTENANCE AND OTHER PRACTICAL STUFF

Below is the synopsis of the January financial statement. The detailed financial statement is posted on the bulletin boards for your information.



Bank Balance:	4,603.35
DDF balance	170,689.17
<u>Accounts receivable</u>	<u>1,954.02</u>
Total Assets	177,246.54

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Donations	16,989.05	Administration	11,046.37
Fees	300.00	Programs	15,408.58
Programs	7,744.36	Operation/Maint.	3,637.75
Other	2,216.12	<u>Rental Operation</u>	<u>1,606.77</u>
<u>Rentals</u>	<u>3,225.00</u>	Total Expense	31,699.47
Total Income	30,474.53	Net Income	-1,224.94

The invoice for the Oblate Parish Mission has been paid, and we are still waiting for one parish to complete payment of the invoice for their share of the expenses for the Mission.

On the income side of the statement, we are still holding our own. The regular collections are about \$1000 more than last year at this time of the fiscal year. Because of a bequest, our total real income rose by \$6000. The Parish Mission collection added over \$9000 to our income, but that was money that was designated for the Mission and is not part of our real income.

Looking at expenses, salaries and wages increased because of Giselle's added time at St. Mary's. Cathedralium was increased from 10% to 15% of our regular collections, so that amount is higher than last year as well. In general, the rest of our expenses are in line with last year's amounts, or are lower.

All in all our finances are in a healthy state, but we cannot become complacent. It is the responsibility of each of us to do our best to exercise good stewardship over our resources and to ensure that there are sufficient resources to continue the work of proclaiming the Gospel and building the Kingdom.

We developed a leak in the rectory roof during one of the thaw periods, and are not sure what damage there is. It is an old roof and will need repair or possibly replacement. No news on that until spring, probably.



THE GRRRAPEVINE

"I am the Vine, you are the branches" (Jn 15:5)

Number 10

February 12, 2006

THE USUAL INTRODUCTION TO THE GRRRAPEVINE!

Welcome to #10. It is hard to believe that what started out as an experiment has continued and is now on the tenth issue. This is a work in progress, as you must realize from the changes in name, content, etc. It is our hope that we are responding to a need in the parish for more and better communication, remembering that communication is a two way street. So we invite your feedback, suggestions, etc. That can be done on the website, through email or in writing or in person. Let's keep the dialogue going.

Once again, a reminder that our parish website can be accessed at <http://www.geocities.com/saintmaryspg/>.

PASTORAL TEAM TIDBITS

Richard: It has been a couple of relatively quiet weeks, with lots of time in the parish office catching up (the desk is finally cleared and the filing is all done!) Meetings of the Diocesan Finance Council, Diocesan Centre Administration Team, a Sunday in McBride, St. Mary's School Council and St. Mary's Pastoral Council have occupied some time, along with Marriage and Baptism preparation and other parish activities. In the coming week, I will be attending a gathering of Oblates in Vancouver for a couple of days.

Giselle: I'm off to Terrace again this weekend for Lay Formation. This past week has been spent in a flurry of getting teaching material together for Luke-Acts, Ecumenism and Inter-religious Dialogue. This will be the last weekend that I am the main presenter at Lay Formation in Terrace, so I should have more time for other parish endeavours in the coming weeks!

SEMINARIAN TIDBITS

Rectorino and Venerando have discerned that they are indeed called to ministry and priesthood in the diocese. We gladly welcome them as seminarians preparing for ordination. They will be admitted to candidacy for ordination at the Chrism Mass on April 3 at Sacred Heart Cathedral. What great news! Please keep them in prayer as they continue their journey toward ordination for our diocese.

VESPERS – FEBRUARY 19

In case you're wondering, our next celebration of Vespers is scheduled for the third Sunday of each month. So the next celebration will be on February 19. Did you know that anybody can lead Vespers? It doesn't have to have an ordained presider. So, next month, we'll give Fr. Richard a break and Giselle will preside. Between now and then though, she'll have to practice those little solo singing bits!



LENTEN/EASTER CUSTOMS

Remember that list that we published a couple of GRRRAPEVINEs ago? The one that listed ways in which we could build community. We expanded a bit on the "Know Your Neighbour" idea, by encouraging submissions of Christmas Customs. With Lent looming around the corner, we are looking for Shrove Tuesday and Lenten customs, and not long after that we would welcome Easter customs. Get your pens out and start writing! You can send things to us by email, regular mail, the web page or in the collection basket. By the way, how many met someone new at the last pancake breakfast? The next pancake breakfast is Sunday February 19. Come and meet your neighbours and help build parish community. Or just come and enjoy the great food!!! (P.S. Did you know that the pretzel is an ancient Lenten custom originating in the 5th century in Rome?)



HOW TO BUILD PARISH COMMUNITY

Have you ever walked through Pine Centre Mall and as you passed someone walking in the opposite direction, thought "Hmmm... they look familiar". Maybe it's the jacket that they wear or something about their hair. As they pass you, you turn around and look at the back of their head. "Ahhh!! Of course! It's that lady who sits 3 pews in front of me in church!"

Funny isn't it... In most Catholic Churches, we're more familiar with the back of our neighbour's heads, than with their faces. Unless we are a Lector or an Extra-ordinary Minister of Communion, chances are, we hardly ever see the faces of many of our fellow parishioners. How can we change that? One way would be to hang around a little bit before and after Mass. Perhaps become an unofficial *Welcomer* at the doors of the church. You don't have to do much, simply smile and say "Good morning" or "Good evening" or "How about those Canucks". The trick is to make eye-contact with people and then smile. Odds are, they'll smile back at you. A smile says "Hi! You're welcome here! Glad to see you!". Doesn't take much...

CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS

Quite literally, in Jesus' time, cleanliness was next to Godliness. Anyone who was considered ritually unclean could not worship in the Temple and was often expelled from the community, sometimes temporarily, sometimes permanently. To be declared unclean was a sentence of excommunication from the community and from God. Today, we can become a little complacent and might have trouble relating to the story of the leprous man in Mark's Gospel. After all, we don't have lepers in our community, and we've moved beyond this notion that your bodily condition could make you unclean and exclude you from the community. (By the way, did you know that the biblical condition "leprosy" included not only Hansen's disease of Fr. Damien fame, but also such things as eczema, psoriasis, boils, rashes and a variety of spotty skin conditions?)

No, we certainly don't exclude people from our community because of their skin condition and/or colour. On the other hand, are there others that we shun? And based on what? Do we secretly wish that "those people" would quietly leave our church. Maybe it's the style of liturgical music that they play. Maybe it's the colour of their hair. Maybe it's their "holier-than-thou" attitude. Maybe it's their "sinful" lifestyle. Jesus came to call all people, not just the righteous and the clean, but the sinful and the unclean. That's good news for us!!! Because we're not perfect (well... maybe Fr. Richard comes close) and God's mercy and healing is offered to each and every one of us, each and every day.

LENT IS ON THE WAY

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 1. These forty days are a time for those who are preparing for baptism to focus on prayer and growing in their relationship with God as they continue this journey. For the baptized, Lent is a time to journey with those preparing for baptism at the Easter Vigil as well as a time for us to reflect on our baptismal call and prepare to renew our own baptismal promises at the Easter celebrations.

There are different opportunities offered in the parish to assist us in this journey of Lent:

Morning Prayer – Monday to Friday at 7:00 a.m.

Morning Eucharist – Monday to Friday at 7:20 a.m.

Evening Eucharist – Mondays at 7:00 p.m. during Lent

Vespers (sung Evening Prayer) – Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. during Lent

Listening Centres – see the list on the website, or in the next issue of GRRRAPEVINE

Family reflection guides – included in the bulletin each weekend

Reconciliation Services – the schedule will be posted as soon as available

Set some time aside now to do something particular for your Lenten Journey.