

September 28, 2015

Dear parishioner,

I want to begin by thanking you for all the ways you support St. Francis de Sales Parish—through your financial gifts, your gifts of service, and your prayers. These many and varied gifts allow our parish family to continue to worship together as God's children and to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Enclosed is our financial report for fiscal year 2015. I know that many parishioners make significant sacrifices to contribute to St. Francis, and this report is a means of being accountable for the parish's use of those gifts.

Fiscal year 2015 ended with an overall deficit of just over \$31,000. While a deficit is undesirable, I am thankful that our deficit was not larger. On the income side, our offertory increased 1.4% over the previous year, unrestricted donations increased by four fold, our 2014 Catholic Services Appeal campaign yielded a \$5,000 rebate, and parish fundraisers such as our raffle and the Auction with a Twist likewise helped to narrow the gap. Our use of \$104,267 in funds from the Capital Stewardship Campaign *Growing our Faith* to meet some parish needs was also a huge help.

Though the Finance Council was relieved to see the increase in our offertory collections, we still have much work to do in this area. Our offertory still has not recovered from the financial crisis of 2008. Because the offertory is our largest and most regular source of income, correcting this problem is essential to the vitality of our parish.

One exciting initiative we undertook this year was to hire a part-time Director of Evangelization and Stewardship. This move was a response to a discerned need for greater efforts to help parishioners deepen their commitment to discipleship and stewardship and to reach out to those who might be attracted to the Catholic faith. Special gifts from a group of dedicated parishioners are funding this position.

Looking forward, we are hoping that our offertory increases enough for us to set aside additional funds for future maintenance needs here at St. Francis and at Corpus Christi School. Also, after many years of constraining our programs because of our income shortfalls, we would like to slowly begin to permit some growth.

Again, I want to extend my gratitude for all the ways you contribute to St. Francis de Sales Parish. Together we grow in faith, together we serve our God, together we hope for the coming of the Kingdom of God.

In Christ,

Fr. Charlie Brown