

St. Athanasius Parish Annual Report *July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011*

October, 2011

STATE OF ST. ATHANASIOUS PARISH 2010-2011

Rededication and **transformation** are two words which describe my sense of St. Athanasius Parish now and in our recent past.

We celebrated last Easter for the first time in our beautifully refurbished church. On the following Sunday, Bishop Kane joined us for a Rededication Mass. This was a joyful moment in our history. Imagine the powers of faith and determination that flowed from the 400+ of our families who joined the *Generations Campaign* to make that rededication and the acquisition of Lindley Park possible. Thank you to all for your prayers and generosity as we work to complete our *Generations Campaign* project.



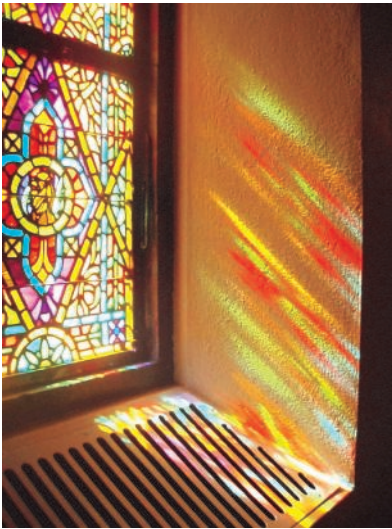
A melodious surprise accompanied the rededication. We heard **a new sound!** For the first time in our parish history the sound of bells was coming from our church tower. I hope that this extra blessing will remain a **tangible invitation to gather as a faith family in praise and worship.**

Perhaps those chimes will rededicate us to address a continuing challenge. Many vibrant things happen in our parish and school. Parishioners work hard to accomplish much at St. A's. **But the missing piece is our willingness to gather on Sunday in sufficient numbers to match the true potential of St. A's to worship our Lord and to build up each other.**

Last year our leadership group and Parish Pastoral Council circulated a survey. One question asked

was: **“What would help YOU make a better connection with Mass?”** **Listening to your comments has resulted in** making the effort to begin the Mass on time, shortening the opening introductions, working to better connect the homily with parishioners' lives, planning music that enlivens and compliments the scriptures, and, finally, improving the sound and the use of visual aids. This is a continuing project involving committed parishioners and staff. **I invite you to make Sunday Mass a regular priority for you and your family.**

I look at this entire year as a **year of rededication.** Rededication to what? The bottom line for all of us: **Am I building a relationship with Jesus Christ?**



That other word, **transformation**, is more elusive to describe. What event or realization brings an individual or a parish to say, in writer Matthew Kelly’s words, “I am not what I used to be. I have become a better version of myself.” At Christmas, when we experience the full potential of St. Athanasius people gathered together, we handed out over 600 copies of Kelly’s book, *Rediscovering Catholicism*. **Being open for opportunities to let our faith “grow us”** is a priority in our parish planning. Our parish offers a number of possibilities for transformation, ranging from a LifeTeen Mission trip to a steady stream of presentations, book club offerings, plus sacramental reconciliation and prayer times. Our *Chimes* bulletin offers the *Faith First* Gospel reading and the *Working with the Scriptures* column. What suggestions can you add?

Another powerful sign of transformation is the enthusiasm propelling twenty-five St. Athanasius people to engage in a **Parish**

Transformation Initiative planning process. Building on our strengths, our “Pearls of Great Price,” which include our sense of community and the quality of our school, our Parish Transformation team is working intensely to develop measurable action plans which both further our parish mission and establish a sound financial base to carry out this mission. Their work has identified the potential area for parish growth as **Prayer and Worship, Evangelization and Catechesis**, building on our sense of **Communion**, and improved **Communication**. We will hear more about their work in the coming months.

St. A’s people are generous and support an annual parish budget of \$3 million. This is a notable achievement of faith in any economic time and especially now. As you can see from the accompanying figures, we still fell a **troublesome \$100,000+ short of balancing our budget**. One of the Parish Transformation Initiative work groups is looking into ways to increase our income and hold the line on expenses.

We can all help NOW to strengthen our financial picture by committing to attend a weekend Mass, and by praying that we grow into that best version of ourselves through deepening our relationship with Jesus Christ.

In addition, we can sign up to contribute using the **ParishPay option for regular stewardship**, or remember St. Athanasius Parish in our will, or by inviting others to join us at Mass.

Rededication and transformation. A challenge wrapped in a blessing for our parish and for each one of us.

In the Lord’s Blessings,

Fr. Tom Libera

Fr. Tom Libera
Pastor

Parish Statistics

	<i>Year-end 6/30/2011</i>	<i>Year-end 6/30/2010</i>
Registered Households	968	989
Baptisms	64	56
First Communions	66	62
Confirmations	54	52
Marriages	14	16
Funerals	18	26
Family Program Students	158	153
Parish School Students	354	361

Parish of St. Athanasius Income Statement
For the Years Ended June 30: 2011 and 2010

Income	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Parish Operations		
1 Sunday, Christmas and Easter collections	785,302	793,619
2 Parish fundraising	253	636
3 Religious Ed. Tuition/Donations & Fundraising	32,681	45,766
4 Youth ministry fundraising & donations	2002	675
5 Other income (includes annual appeal rebate)	24,593	37,665
6 Interest, rent and endowment income	32,217	48,873
7 Bequests, memorials and gifts	<u>1,850</u>	<u>5,559</u>
Total Parish Operations	878,898	932,790
Parish School Operations		
8 Tuition and fees	1,918,754	1,733,701
9 Fundraising, net	276,203	267,060
9a School Excess overage to next fiscal year	0	0
10 School Deficit from Balance Sheet Funds	0	27,035
11 Gifts and Donations	27,731	26,703
12 Other income	0	2,122
13 Subsidy from Parish Church	<u>139,020</u>	<u>125,000</u>
Total Parish School Operations	2,361,708	2,181,621
Total Income	3,240,606	3,114,411
Expense		
Parish Operations		
14 Salaries, wages and benefits	518,224	468,148
15 Utilities, repairs and insurance	135,047	142,542
16 Assessments paid to Archdiocese	108,228	118,877
17 Office, liturgical and administrative	63,225	62,329
18 Ministries	15,429	9,522
19 Other Expenses	31,117	26,151
20 Subsidy to Parish School	<u>139,020</u>	<u>125,000</u>
Total Parish Operations	1,010,290	952,569
Parish School Operations		
21 Salaries, wages and benefits	1,865,433	1,761,437
22 Utilities, repairs and insurance	147,886	156,877
23 Books and instructional materials	98,208	76,532
24 Computers and equipment	107,994	45,361
25 Office and other general expenses	72,529	93,902
26 Scholarships	<u>69,659</u>	<u>47,511</u>
Total Parish School Operations	2,361,709	2,181,620
Total Expenses	3,371,999	3,134,189
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(131,393)	(19,778)

Sunday, Christmas and Easter collections decreased by 1% over last year for a total decrease of \$8,317.

The school subsidy was \$139,020 which was \$14,520 over budget.

Parish Operations expenses, other than salaries and benefits, were down by 2% this year.

School and Parish salary and benefits increased by 7% and are 74% of total expenses.

Some Questions and Comments about Parish Finances

What is the bottom line?

We ended fiscal year 2010 with a net loss of **(\$131,393)**. Cash flow was extremely tight requiring us to take an operating loan from the Archdiocese which is to be paid off over two years.

Who contributes?

One-third of our parishioners give \$500 or more each year and we are grateful for their generosity. Our Parish is here for all of our parishioners, even those considered inactive or even non-supporting. Our community needs each and every member to contribute according to their means to make sure our services are available to all who need them.

What Can We Do About Parish Income?

The major source of our budget comes from your offerings in the collection. We cannot make ends meet on an ongoing basis without a consistent increase in overall contributions and Sunday offerings.

What is the best way to contribute?

Most parishioners use weekly or monthly envelopes to contribute. A growing number of parishioners - **128 families** - contribute online through **ParishPay**, a donation program allowing you to contribute automatically, either by debiting a bank account or using a credit card. **Please consider signing up for ParishPay** if you are not currently participating. Increased participation will help us reach our offertory goal. Use of your checking account instead of a credit card increases the net amount that we receive. If you would like to sign up for ParishPay, please see the information on page 4.

St. Athanasius Parish Balance Sheet June 30: 2011 and 2010

Assets	2011	2010
Cash for operations	333,824	157,675
Associated Organizations Cash	74,759	61,892
Receivables due to parish	41,185	5,042
Prepaid expenses	3,000	4,500
Campaign Funds	63,151	315,010
Endowment Funds	<u>832,757</u>	<u>886,687</u>
Total Assets	1,348,675	1,430,806
Liabilities and Fund Balance		
Prepaid school tuition and fees	151,822	229,506
School salary and other accruals	109,634	115,608
School Fundraising and Capital carry forward	62,978	62,978
Operating Loan from Archdiocese of Chicago	149,064	43,487
Campaign Loan from Archdiocese of Chicago	371,219	521,219
Donations for future years	291,440	66,760
Endowment Restricted Funds	832,757	886,687
Campaign Restricted Funds	63,151	223,298
Associated Organizations Cash Reserves	94,882	78,146
Parish fund balance	<u>(778,272)</u>	<u>(796,883)</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	1,348,675	1,430,806

If you have questions or concerns regarding our Annual Report, feel free to contact any of our Finance Committee members:
*Fr. Tom Libera, Pastor, Marion Amling, Business Manager, Karen Sonnickson Sellers, Parish Administrator,
 Robert Natke, Chair, Stephanie Buettell, Tom Hjorth, Ellen McRaith, Greg Stoklosa, Kristen Watson.*