

*St. Athanasius
Parish Annual Report
July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010*

October 10, 2010

STATE OF ST. ATHANASIUS PARISH 2009-2010

Forty-five thousand people are running the Chicago Marathon today. Included are St. A's people. You don't complete a successful marathon by just showing up. In attempting to finish the run, a menu of ingredients like deciding to run, serious practice, registering, and enlisting other people's support are all stirred together.

This week, we will give the annual account of the time, talent, and treasure for our parish. Today, in addition to a presentation of our financial report, I will give my views on the state of our parish. In a coming week, you will have an opportunity to add your perspective and hopes for our future.

Participating in a marathon is a good way for describing life at St. Athanasius. Since our founding in 1921, the combined efforts of parishioners, pastors, teachers, and many others have sustained that long distance run of responding to the call of Jesus Christ to "Do this in memory of Me."

The Chicago Marathon runner will see some spectacular sights along the course. What do I see here at St. A's? I notice the **completed outside repair** of our beautiful church building. Next year the goal is to finish re-decorating the interior, improving sound, creating better church access, and a wish list of other improvements. Last year your generosity added about \$250,000 in pledges to our Generations Campaign's \$3 million goal. Presently we are within \$225,000 of that goal. This marathon generosity helps assure our parish's future. Thanks to all who continue to support this project.

The marathon runner builds up determination and stamina by continual practice. As Catholic disciples of the Lord, **where do we build up our spiritual stamina?** Our wisdom says that **the Mass is the summit and source of our spiritual development.** *The Chimes* continues to print the **Faith First** reminder to read and reflect on the coming week's Gospel, both at parish meetings and in the home. While attendance at Mass fluctuates widely, during October it averaged an 8.9% decrease from 2008 to 2009. **This concerns me.** While there are **signs of parish vitality** evidenced, for example, by the 42 new families who joined us, by our school's increased enrollment, by the creative new resources offered to our Family Program parents, and by a purposeful effort to re-invigorate our parish leadership and Parish Pastoral Council, without a vibrant Sunday worship community built up from all our households, we will slowly become spiritually strangled as we cut ourselves off from what shapes and feeds our community.

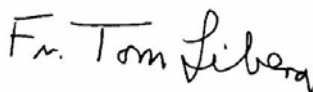
After your decision is made to be actively present for Sunday worship, I know **your expectations for an engaging liturgy, including homily, music, welcome, and environment, are not always met.** That is why **a major priority for our parish leadership and Pastoral Council during this coming year** will center on finding more effective ways with which you can feel a connection between the Mass and your daily life. We are working to respond to the question, “What does it take to bring you back next Sunday?”

Along the marathon route the cheers of the crowd boost runner motivation and strength. Last year, I reported that **Mrs. Katherine Klassen**, who died in 2006, left her parish a generous benefice in her will which has totaled just over \$235,000. This last year another committed parishioner, **Mr. Spencer Powell**, died and remembered St. A’s in his will with a gift of \$100,000. Following the wisdom of our Finance Committee \$75,000 of Katherine’s has been allocated to our Generations Campaign Building Maintenance Fund. We are still discussing how to be the best stewards of the remaining funds with the general view of using the bulk not for immediate needs, but instead to invest in strengthening our parish’s future. Please remember these two gentle people and all who have been generous to our parish throughout our history in your prayers. Deciding to **include St. Athanasius Parish in your legacy** is a special affirmation for us to continue the work of building up the parish of Jesus Christ.

To enter the Chicago Marathon requires an entrance fee. Our Financial Report gives the details, but we were able to **substantially improve the balance sheet** from the previous year. Although we still have a deficit, it was considerably lower than first projected. Through an increase in your Sunday stewardship, a salary freeze for all our staffs, and for the parish staff an additional 10% salary decrease, which has since been lifted, we made it through. My gratitude goes out for your generosity and the real sacrifices our dedicated parish and school staff made this past year. **Your Sunday stewardship offering is what we depend upon to fulfill our budget and sustain us for the long haul.**

While the marathoner makes that single stride one at a time, the runner also is strategizing a pace to reach that finish line. In our history, St. A’s has faced times of challenges and doubts, recovery and flourishing. Through it all, we can take the advice of the author of the Letter to the Hebrews: “Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how he did it. He never lost sight of where he was headed – that exhilarating finish in and with God.” (12:2)

In the Lord’s Blessings,



Fr. Tom Libera
Pastor

Parish Statistics

	<i>Year-end 6/30/10</i>	<i>Year-end 6/30/09</i>
Registered Households	989	1,013
Baptisms	56	67
First Communions	62	63
Confirmations	52	47
Marriages	16	8
Funerals	26	20
Family Program Students	153	160
Parish School Students	361	350

Parish of St. Athanasius
Income Statement
For the Years Ended June 30: 2010 and 2009

Income	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Parish Operations		
1 Sunday, Christmas and Easter collections	793,619	778,871
2 Parish fundraising	636	462
3 Religious Ed. Tuition/Donations & Fundraising	45,766	49,963
4 Youth ministry fundraising & donations	675	0
5 Other income (includes annual appeal rebate)	37,665	22,363
6 Interest, rent and endowment income	48,873	21,964
7 Bequests, memorials and gifts	<u>5,559</u>	<u>1,480</u>
Total Parish Operations	932,790	875,103
Parish School Operations		
8 Tuition and fees	1,733,701	1,675,744
9 Fundraising, net	267,060	223,465
9a School Excess coverage to next fiscal year	0	(57,014)
10 School Deficit from Balance Sheet Funds	27,035	0
11 Gifts and Donations	26,703	67,627
12 Other income	2,122	7,934
13 Grant from Parish Church	<u>125,000</u>	<u>150,000</u>
Total Parish School Operations	2,181,621	2,067,756
Total Income	3,114,411	2,942,859
Expense		
Parish Operations		
14 Salaries, wages and benefits	468,148	457,316
15 Utilities, repairs and insurance	142,542	153,402
16 Assessments paid to Archdiocese	118,877	112,794
17 Office, liturgical and administrative	62,329	81,222
18 Ministries	9,522	18,003
19 Other Expenses	26,151	30,797
20 Subsidy to Parish School	<u>125,000</u>	<u>150,000</u>
Total Parish Operations	952,569	1,003,535
Parish School Operations		
21 Salaries, wages and benefits	1,761,437	1,651,597
22 Utilities, repairs and insurance	156,877	162,904
23 Books and instructional materials	76,532	64,931
24 Computers and equipment	45,361	66,868
25 Office and other general expenses	93,902	78,677
26 Scholarships	<u>47,511</u>	<u>42,779</u>
Total Parish School Operations	2,181,620	2,067,756
Total Expenses	3,134,189	3,071,291
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(19,778)	(128,432)

Sunday Offerings, Christmas & Easter collections increased by 3% over last year, for a total of \$20,598.

The school grant has been reduced this year to \$125,000.

Parish Operations expenses, other than salaries and benefits, decreased by 6% this year...

Salary & Benefits increased by 2% and are 49% 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 (\$19,778). Parish staff took a 10% pay cut to ease the cash flow crisis. A campaign loan was taken out to cover expenses due for the exterior repairs, to be repaid as pledge payments come in.

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 (**126 families**) contribute online through **ParishPay**, a donation program allowing you to contribute automatically, either by debiting a bank account or using a credit card. If you would like to sign up for **ParishPay**, please visit the website at **www.parishpay.com** or contact Barbara Bonier at 847-328-1430, extension 142.

St. Athanasius Parish Balance Sheet June 30: 2010 and 2009

Assets	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Cash for operations	157,675	127,078
Associated Organizations Cash	61,892	30,917
Receivables due to parish	5,042	36,968
Prepaid expenses	4,500	200
Church Repair Funds	91,712	90,188
Campaign Funds	223,298	603,495
Endowment funds	<u>886,687</u>	<u>886,375</u>
Total Assets	1,430,806	1,775,221
Liabilities and Fund Balance		
Prepaid school tuition and fees	229,506	210,964
School salary and other accruals	115,608	101,526
School Fundraising & Capitol carry forward	62,978	118,221
Operating Loan from Archdiocese	43,487	84,751
Campaign Loan from Archdiocese	521,219	-0-
Donations for future years	66,760	36,034
Endowment Restricted Funds	886,687	886,375
Campaign Restricted Funds	223,298	603,495
Associated Organizations Cash Reserves	78,146	36,953
Parish fund balance	<u>(796,883)</u>	<u>(303,098)</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	1,430,806	1,775,221

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 Sonnicksen Sellers, Parish Administrator, Robert Natke, Chair, Stephanie Buettell, Doug Wambach, Greg Stoklosa, Kristen Watson