

April 21, 2010

Parish Giving

Have you ever been so close to achieving a goal that you can almost taste it, but each time it eludes you at the last minute and leaves you wondering where to turn next? This is where we stand today as a parish as we strive to meet our financial needs.

For the past 12 years Fr. Don has had to be the one to stand before you and talk about our financial position. As we prepare for Fr. Don's departure from St. Anne it is time that we prepare to take on this responsibility.

Each week the bulletin reports our income along with our projected expenses. For the past couple of years most of the months have ended with a number in **RED**. **RED** is BAD! It means that we have spent more than we have earned.

The parish finance committee has worked hard to reduce our monthly spending during these times of economic need. St. Anne has been able to secure an 18 month mortgage at 6.25% that will reduce our mortgage payment by \$4,000 a month. We have also decreased our monthly utility cost thru last year's air infiltration project by about \$1,100. In spite of the efforts of everyone to reduce our monthly spending, on average, we currently still receive about \$4,000 less a month than we spend.

We need your continued support to help us all meet the financial needs of our parish. We realize that many of you may be experiencing economic hardship at this time, but we are a family that needs to support each other. If you are fortunate enough to be employed we'd like to ask you to consider contributing another \$10 a month, a couple of dollars a week, to help our parish meet its economic needs. If you are unemployed or on a fixed income using SCRIP to purchase gas and groceries will help add to St. Anne's income. We receive a percentage back on all Scrip sold.

Other ways you can help us close the income/expense gap are:

- Put another couple of dollars in the basket each week
- Purchase \$200 in SCRIP a month as a family
- Use ACH which will ensure regular contributions on either the 5th or 20th of each month thru automatic withdraw.
- A new option...use E-giving and make your contribution online with your credit or debit card.

When household income doesn't meet expenses cuts need to be made. The same is true here at St. Anne. We must live within our means, or simply doing without. We have exhausted the reserves we had from the sale of the parish center. We will be forced to make more hard economic decisions in the upcoming months if our weekly giving doesn't increase. Four areas that that may be impacted are:

- Less music ministry

- Less masses
- Less Faith Formation
- May be unable to maintain our commitment to tithing

These are all core values of our parish yet without a SUSTAINABLE increase in our monthly giving we will need to consider making cuts in these areas.

St. Anne's is facing a difficult year ahead as a parish. In order for us to succeed we need to stand together as a parish family and support ourselves. St. Anne's is its own corporation; and as such, we need to be able to financially sustain ourselves. With an additional \$10 / month from ALL families that have been blessed with steady employment, we will continue to be "all the things that I want my church to be". Without your support, we will need to make some VERY hard choices that will affect us all.

We value your input and are willing to listen to any suggestions or comments you may have.

Please also consider completing an ACH form included in the bulletin or signing up for E-giving. This will ensure that your donation will still make it to St. Anne even when you can't. This helps to more accurately project our monthly income and budget accordingly.

Remember in order for St. Anne's to continue to be "All the things that I want my church to be", we need your help.

Parish Council

Finance Ministry