

July 28, 2010

Dear Parishioner,

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of July. Very soon the golden leaves will be falling and our students will be facing another academic year. I know that in addition to the normal changes each year brings, it has not been easy for you to say goodbye to your dear friend and Pastor, Father Don. This makes me even more grateful for your kindness in welcoming me to Saint Anne Parish.

As we look forward, we know that there are many challenges to face. The air infiltration problem has been largely fixed, which has resulted in substantial heating/cooling savings. We are still facing some façade problems on the non-bricked portion of the building. Repair costs are unknown because the scope of work has not been adequately defined yet. More information on this situation will be reported as it develops.

On the financial front, and as reported in the last quarter, we experienced some relief in being able to renew our mortgage at 6.25% for 18 months. The previous rate had been 7.5%. This renewal has been saving the Parish over \$4,000 monthly. Once we are able to raise enough income to cover our expenses, we will be in a stronger position to be able to obtain a long term mortgage at a favorable rate. It is crucial that we are able to meet our operating expenses before the current 18 month mortgage renewal expires.

From July 2009 through June 2010, we spent **\$57,954** more than we received (the good news is that we had budgeted for a **\$65,345** deficit). Our preliminary budget for July 2010 to June 2011 anticipates a similar deficit.

We discussed various options to meet the challenge of covering our yearly expenses. Initial plans called for raising \$1.5 Million to pay down our debt, but since it was feared that parishioners were approaching 'capital campaign burnout', we chose another route. Before Father Don left, the Parish contracted with The Advancement Counsel of Danvers, MA, to facilitate a Commitment to Parish Life Program. It was felt that this Program better reflected our commitment to Stewardship. The Advancement Counsel has helped several Stewardship parishes meet their goals. Our initial goal will be to raise enough to cover our operating expenses. Any additional funds will help pay down the principal balance on our debt. The Commitment program will be launched this fall.

St. Anne needs your help now and in the months ahead to make ends meet! Since we do not have any Parish fundraisers, the sale of SCRIP is an important component of our income. Purchasing **\$200 of SCRIP each month** for your everyday purchases can make this happen. The beautiful part about using Parish SCRIP is that no extra money comes out of your pocket. Please promote this program and make use of it for your family. Your efforts will make Saint Anne a better place.

The projected budget for 2010-11, which was decided at our June 9<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting, can be found on the [Saint Anne Parish website](#). Also included are various reports from the Parish and budget for 2009-2010.

Thank you for making St. Anne your parish and I look forward to serving you and getting to know all of you over these coming years.

Yours gratefully in Jesus,

Fr. Bob Weighner  
Pastor