



Stewardship Report 2014/2015



ST. MARY
CATHOLIC PARISH
LITTLETON

Letter From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of the priests of the Disciples of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary and St. Mary staff, ministry leaders, and councils, I am pleased to provide you with the results of operations for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2014/2015.

We still have fresh in our memories the recent visit of our Holy Father Pope Francis to the United States of America which culminated with the World Meeting of Families in September 2015. During his meeting with the United States Bishops in Washington D.C. on

September 23rd, he called to mind the many gifts we receive from God such as life, family, peace, and all creation. All are "the gift of God, of which we are noble stewards but not masters." This is, once again, the basic principle of stewardship: we have received from God super abundant gifts which belong primarily to him; we have the responsibility of caring for them and, God willing, multiplying them. So, we are called to responsible action.

All this reminds me of the words of the Apostle James:

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (Jm 2:14-17)

There are two things that struck me in this passage. First, our fellow Christians are called brother and sister: they are not strangers, they are members of our own family (cf. Eph 2:19). Family is the center of God's plan. Second, faith needs to be translated into deeds in order to be alive and, ultimately, to exist.

We truly have at heart these two truths and we are striving to bring them to life. As St. Paul reminds us: "The love of Christ impels us" (2 Cor 5:14). This Stewardship Report is a window into the life of the parish which will allow you to see how we work to help families become more united and bear fruit. It is an opportunity to be transparent by providing full disclosure,

clarity and accuracy of St. Mary financial operations and highlights. You can read some encouraging stories on pages 3 and 4 about how God is creating fruit and life through the hands of so many committed ministers. See pages 5 and 6 for information about how your gift of treasure was utilized to support the mission and ministries of the parish. You can also see on page 7 how we were able to tithe 10% of our offertory income to charity; we plan to do the same again this year.

As I shared with you during the Marian Festival, as a parish

family we are pursuing three goals this year: *Holiness, Growth and Unity*. Many ministries are in place in order to help us meet these goals. With the help of these ministries, we hope to become more missionary and more merciful in this, the third year of our parish initiative to strengthen and build families: "Toward a Missionary Family". These goals cannot be accomplished by the clergy and staff alone.

To continue and expand this mission our parish family depends on a commitment of time (prayer), talent (your gifts) and treasure (financial pledges) from both individuals and families within the parish and school. God's work within our parish depends on parishioner commitment and participation. Most importantly, your faith cannot exist without *your* commitment and participation, as St. James reminds us: "Faith, if it does not

have works, is dead."

It is important to review our lives and actions in relationship to the whole Church family. I encourage you to take some time with this report to better understand your role in the Church and prayerfully consider your commitment to our parish family this year. Thank you for your support of our parish. May God bless you all!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Javier Nieva". The signature is stylized with a large, circular flourish around the name.

Fr. Javier Nieva, DCJM, Pastor



What is Stewardship?

What is a Stewardship Parish?

We can be tempted to see Stewardship as a program introduced at various times of the year when the parish asks for commitments of time, talent, and treasure. While these are important needs, God calls us to so much more. The goal of Stewardship is to help us grow in love.

Identity

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will.

Our Christian Identity is founded upon the basic idea of God as Creator. We are created by God for God. In a very real way, we are not our own; we belong to God. We understand the primacy of God in our lives. If we are not our own, then the things we have are not our own either. We are stewards. Even our talents are not our own. They are gifts from God. It's important to recognize the value of identity because as you understand your identity, you begin to understand that, "I am a steward." I am not my own; I am only created by God; I am created for God, not for myself. This realization helps us to learn detachment so that we can see that God is the owner of everything.

Trust

*All that I have and possess,
have given all to me.*

Stewardship becomes a way of life when we allow ourselves to be stewards. Since everything we have is from God, it is God who is in control of our lives, not us. As hard as it is, stewardship is just the way God would have it at this very moment. When we let go of control and accept things as they are, we are rewarded with peace of mind. The good steward shows his trust in God by how he handles all of his material possessions; by giving control of his material possessions to God so that God can order them to his will – and for our benefit. If we trust God, he will not let us down.

Gratitude

To you, O Lord, I return it. All is Yours; dispose of it wholly according to Your will.

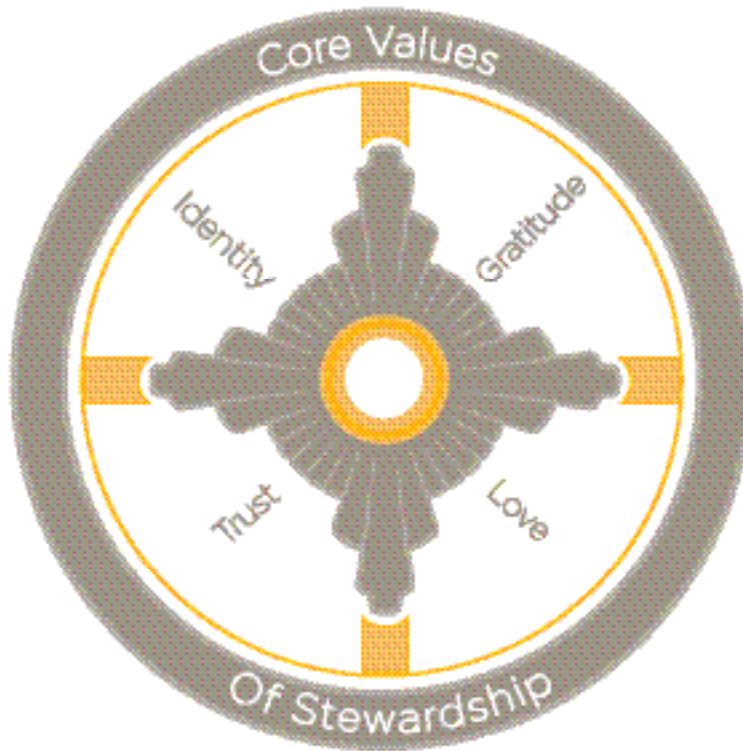
In a spirit of gratitude, we come to accept that God gives us all that we need, and that he does for us what we cannot do for ourselves. When we acknowledge that we are fully reliant upon God, we begin to learn detachment. Our detachment from material goods places them in their proper perspective.

As we realize that we have enough, we begin to see all that God has given us. In a spirit of gratitude, we say, "I am not trying to get what I don't have. Rather, I appreciate what I already have." This realization is the result of a grateful heart. For our part, then, we must learn how to return to God all that we have, in accordance with his will for us. The good steward is not grateful only in his heart, but acts in gratitude.

Love

*Give me Your love and Your grace,
for this is sufficient for me.*

We love because we have experienced God's love for us. Another word for love is charity. Love is not self-seeking, so when we love, we are not loving ourselves. St. Thomas Aquinas defined love as, "to wish the good of another," which means to provide for another. Therefore, it is impossible to love without giving – without being charitable. The good steward understands that our charitable giving is based on the concept that we have a need to give. Our need to give is our response in love. We give back what is not really ours; we give of ourselves in our time, talent, and treasure.



Why Do We Give?

God asks only for a tithe – or a tenth – in thanksgiving for what he has done. But what should you give? He asks us to give of our time, talent, and treasure, not because he has a need for these gifts, but because he knows that we need to give for our own happiness. Then, when he sees our response in love, he gives us even more of his love and grace. So, what begins as a gift from God, becomes a gift to God, and results in a greater outpouring of love and grace from God.

Parish Stories of

Getting Grilled

Every other Thursday between May and August, families and young adults gathered on the Pastoral Center lawn here at St. Mary Parish. Music bounced off buildings and caught the interest of passersby as families sat clumped together on the grass, waited in line to get beer and brats provided by the Knights of Columbus, or stood chatting together between the trees.

What might appear from the outside to be a simple parish picnic was actually a response

to a phenomenon every Catholic is now familiar with. We all have friends and family members that can't understand why "the Church dislikes homosexuals" and "can't seem to join the 21st century and get on the contraception train." In short, Catholics are "getting grilled" about Church doctrines that they may not fully understand themselves.

And thus, "**Getting Grilled**" – a summer apologetics series – was born in 2014 with an average of 100 attendees per evening. Now, in our second year, we have had the opportunity to help an average of 150 attendees grow in knowledge of their faith. Popular speakers such as Jason Evert and Archbishop Samuel Aquila presented on a wide variety of topics including the Church's teachings on homosexuality, marijuana use, and contraception. In response, many of the young adults who attended are becoming more actively engaged in their parish and are feeling more comfortable defending their faith. These evenings also offered families of all shapes and sizes the opportunity to relax with other Catholics while getting clarification on some of the stickier points of Church doctrine.

Overall, "**Getting Grilled**," now two years old, has continued to be a great success. We are excited to see who will be featured next summer during the third annual "**Getting Grilled**" series.



Disciples Spanish Exchange Program

For the past eight years, we have invited students from Spain to come to America and participate in our annual **Spanish Exchange Program**. This year, 25 Spanish and 15 American students came together between June 27 and July 25 to meet across cultural and language barriers.

A new addition to this year's program was a Summer Camp which took place over the last week of the program. Students were asked to build shelters out of whatever they could find in their surroundings – not an easy task when you barely know your teammates and language is an obstacle! In addition, they hiked, prayed, and enjoyed other outdoor activities. One participant told us that she grew closer to God through this experience when the program leaders prayed over her.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the **Spanish Exchange Program** is the relationships that are built between host families and the students they host. "The sharing of faith, culture and knowledge about one another's countries has built a bridge of understanding that we never expected! We opened our

home and they stole our hearts," one host family commented. One of the Spanish students recounted the following about one of his host families: "I feel like their fourth son [and] have learned many American expressions from them." He continued, saying, "Thank you,

Fr. Javier, for [making] this exchange [possible] and for your work on this program."

The relationships between host families and the Spanish students they host continue long after the program ends. Families will regularly skype with the student and American students will sometimes fly to Spain to spend time with the family of the student they hosted. And so, relationships continue to grow and blossom between the American and Spanish families involved.

Overall, the **Spanish Exchange Program** this year was another huge success! We look forward to continuing to expand and develop this program in the years to come.



f Family & Faith

St. Mary Parish School

St. Mary Catholic School has long striven to provide an environment where children can grow in their faith and knowledge at the same time. For one St. Mary School family, St. Mary's was a place of learning, community, sacramental preparation, outreach, and family growth.

Their youngest son began in pre-school where he "learned how to sit in a circle, follow directions and get along with his classmates" in addition to sharing in Donuts for Dads Day with his father. In second grade, he received his First Holy Communion with his class in the midst of "explor[ing] the oceans, the rain forest, and the galaxy."

Third and fourth grades included geological studies and constructing compound machines (with their father's help).



In fifth grade, their second-oldest son had the opportunity to learn some real-life skills such as writing a check, making a deposit, and balancing a checkbook. His class "worked together to operate a 17-business town" where he "worked for the town's newspaper as a photographer." He received the Sacrament of Confirmation with his class in sixth grade.

Their oldest son participated in Caring Communities during his seventh grade year. "Five times a year, he and a group of St. Mary's students got together to help others in need." His experience at St. Mary's was one of baseball, basketball, school politics and outreach.

Looking back on the years her sons spent at St. Mary School, the boys' mother wrote the following: "Our boys have thrived. These days, my checkbook is much thinner, but my faith has never been stronger . . . Years ago when I called to set up a tour, I was searching for a school. What I found was a welcoming community filled with strong, kind and caring families."

"A refreshing breeze blew as we gathered under tents around an altar bedecked with white roses and blue fabric, highlighted by dozens of banners prepared by parish families and our school children."

Marian Festival

It is a blessing when God takes our efforts, multiplies them, and helps us achieve even more than we had hoped. On September 13 we celebrated our first Marian Festival to express our devotion to our Blessed Mother as a parish family. Fr. Javier's vision for this festival was of a day for the entire parish family to gather and place ourselves under Our Lady's continual protection, and to enjoy a great day of fun together as one family. He began his homily, quoting St. John Paul II, by insisting on the importance of our devotion to Our Lady and our confidence in her care for this parish named in her honor: "The victory, if it comes, will come through Mary."



The hallmark of our festival was a lovely outdoor Mass celebrated with the mountains in the background. We gathered under tents around an altar bedecked with white roses and blue fabric, highlighted by dozens of banners prepared by parish families and our school children. After Mass, hundreds of participants processed around the parish grounds with our statue of Mary and our Marian banners, singing hymns to Our Lady and seeking her intercession in litany and prayer.

Afterward, families came together and shared in a day of fellowship with food, wine and beer tasting, games, Soccer with the Priests, and so much more. Smiles were seen on every face, but particularly on the faces of children in the ball field sporting crazy hair and painted faces as they took part in the many games and activities offered.

We are profoundly grateful for the gift of time and talent that so many parish and school families offered to make this festival a success. They are a witness to what Stewardship is truly about: giving back, in loving gratitude, all that we've been given.

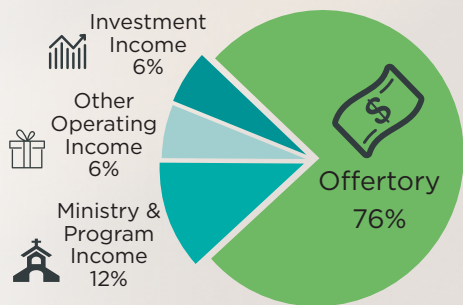
A Closer Look at Our St

Parish Statement of Revenue & Expense

2013/2014 Fiscal Year

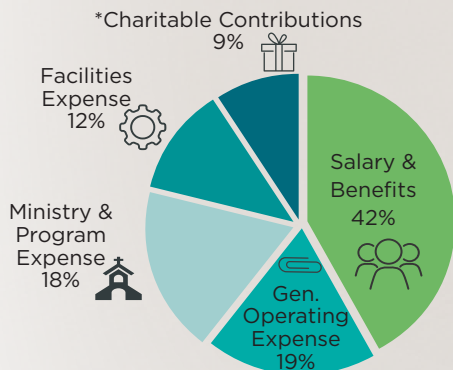
Operating Income

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Offertory | \$2,346,101 |
| Ministry & Program Income | 362,594 |
| Other Operating Income | 172,669 |
| Investment Income | 183,885 |
| Total Income | \$3,065,249 |



Operating Expenses

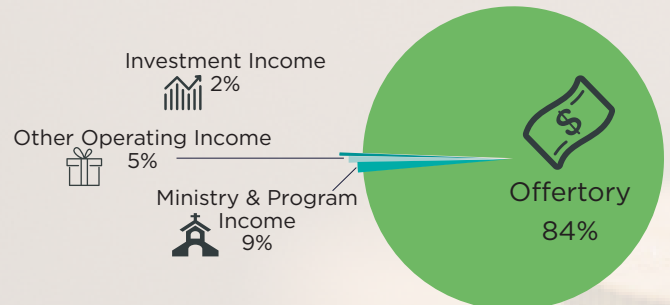
| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Salary & Benefits | \$1,143,069 |
| General Operating Expense | 508,041 |
| Ministry & Program Expense | 496,448 |
| Facilities Expense | 322,955 |
| Charitable Contributions | 245,421 |
| Total Operating Expense | \$2,715,934 |
| Net Operating Surplus | \$349,315 |



2014/2015 Fiscal Year

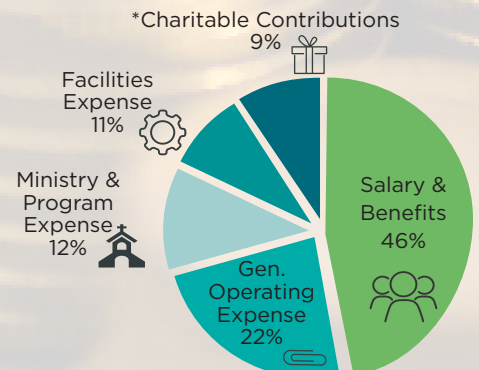
Operating Income

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Offertory | \$2,334,085 |
| Ministry & Program Income | 242,681 |
| Other Operating Income | 149,639 |
| Investment Income | 43,512 |
| Total Income | \$2,769,917 |



Operating Expenses

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Salary & Benefits | \$1,249,057 |
| General Operating Expense | 301,453 |
| Ministry & Program Expense | 612,823 |
| Facilities Expense | 331,748 |
| Charitable Contributions | 233,200 |
| Total Operating Expense | \$2,728,281 |
| Net Operating Surplus | \$41,636 |



Notable Financial Information Items:

- *Charity tithe is **10% based on offertory**
- The Parish continues to be **Debt Free**
- Cash & Investments : **\$2,800,420 (2014) | \$3,012,862 (2015)**
- Number of Families **Registered: 1,887 | Active: 1,738**
- Number of Families who use Online Giving: **344 (2014) | 338 (2015)**

- Parish Continues to meet Archdiocesan Liquidity Requirements

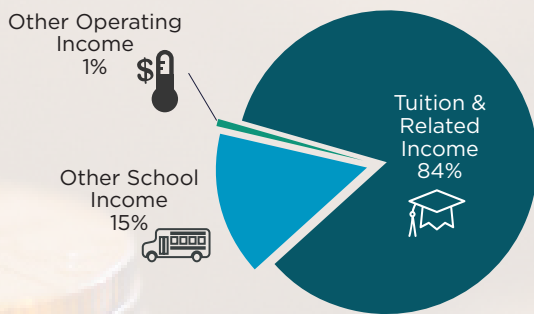
Stewardship of Treasure

School Statement of Revenue & Expense

2013/2014 Fiscal Year

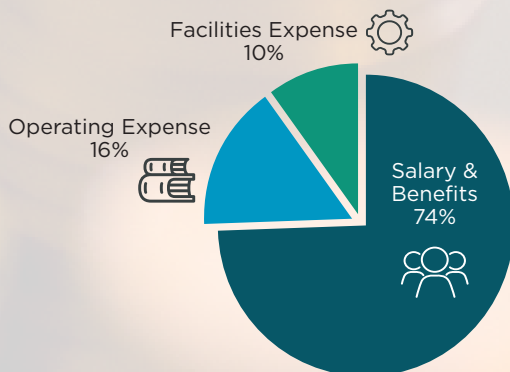
Operating Income

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Tuition & Related Income | \$2,140,114 |
| Other School Income | 390,511 |
| Other Operating Income | 17,333 |
| Total Income | \$2,547,958 |



Operating Expenses

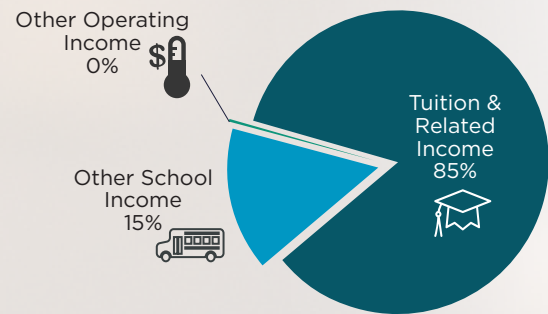
| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Salary & Benefits | \$2,058,626 |
| School Operating Expense | 429,208 |
| Facilities Expense | 270,234 |
| Total Operating Expense | \$2,758,068 |
| Net Operating (Deficit) | (\$210,110) |



2014/2015 Fiscal Year

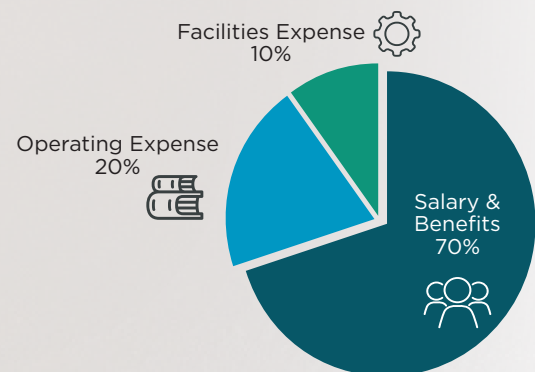
Operating Income

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Tuition & Related Income | \$2,330,452 |
| Other School Income | 417,157 |
| Other Operating Income | 6,129 |
| Total Income | \$2,753,738 |



Operating Expenses

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Salary & Benefits | \$1,932,858 |
| School Operating Expense | 549,906 |
| Facilities Expense | 272,204 |
| Total Operating Expense | \$2,754,968 |
| Net Operating (Deficit) | (\$1,230) |



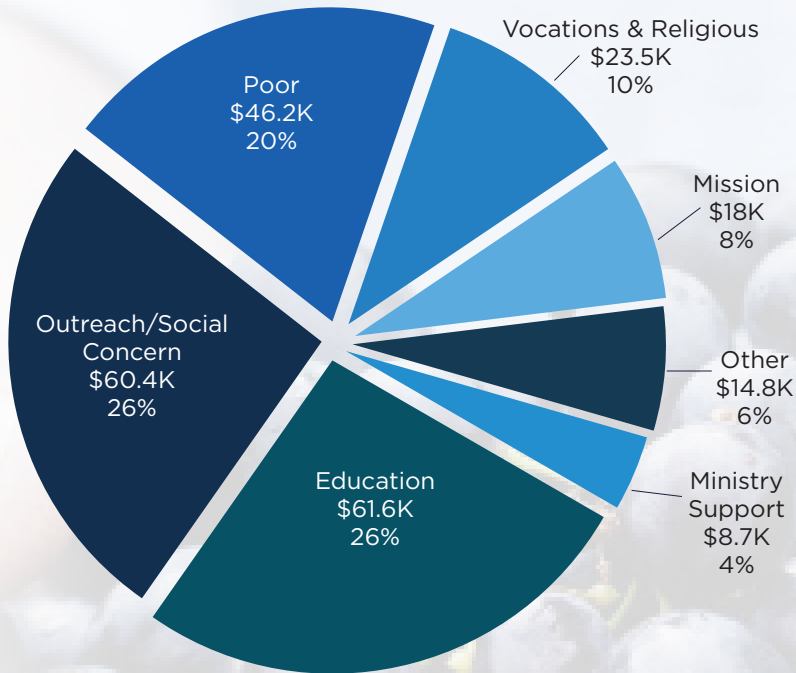
Notable School Operating Information Items:

- Number of students: **443**
- Number of school families: **286**
- Affiliated tuition rate (1 Child grades 1st - 8th): **\$5,300 (discounts for additional children)**
- Annual school deficit reduction : **over \$200,000**

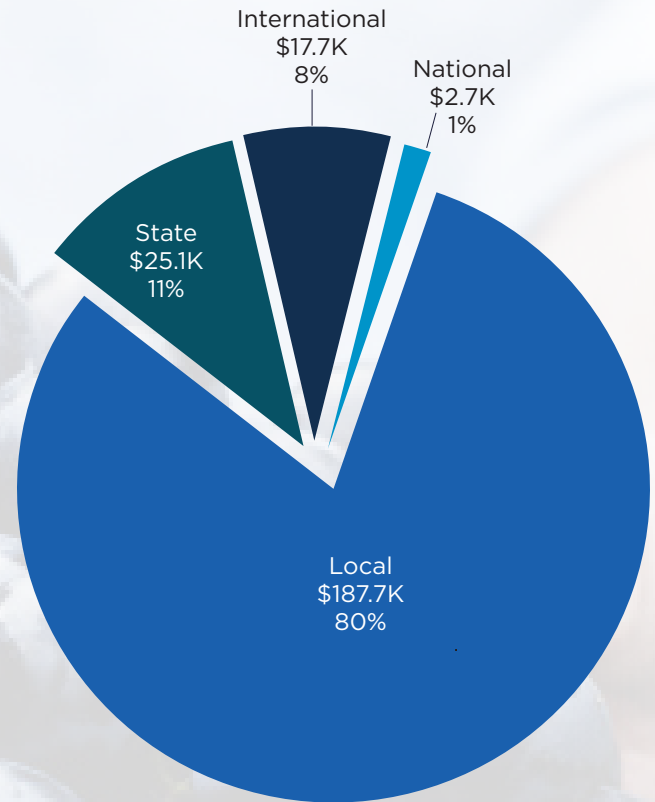
Fruits of Our Labor

10% of Offertory : \$233,200

Charity By Cause



Charity By Location



Top 10 Largest Donations

St. Mary School - \$61,662
St. Vincent de Paul Society - \$24,000
St. Veronica Outreach - \$20,000
All Saints Catholic Parish - \$15,000
Carmelite Sisters Monastery - \$10,000
Annunciation Catholic Parish - \$10,000
St. Joseph's Catholic Parish - \$10,000
St. William's Catholic Parish - \$10,000
Habitat for Humanity - \$8,000
Hand Maids of the Holy Child of Jesus - \$8,000

Questions or Comments?

If you have questions or comments about our annual Stewardship Report, please feel free to call or come in to the office to discuss them with any member of the St. Mary leadership team at 303.798.8506.

Sarah Norton, *Dir. of Business Operations*
Greg Caudle, *School Principal*
David Suddjian, *Dir. of Liturgy & Worship*
Linda Sherman, *Dir. of Family Life & Service*
Vinny Boscia, *Dir. of Facilities & Maintenance*

Sam Battaglia, *Finance Council Chair*
Tom Buelt, *Pastoral Council Chair*