

§ "We cannot go to heaven in featherbeds."  
—*Life of Thomas More* by William Roper;  
More to his children, c. 1510

## **Saint Thomas More Parish, Braintree Annual & Fiscal Report Fiscal Yr '16 (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016)**

"A new evangelization is synonymous with mission, requiring the capacity to set out anew, go beyond boundaries and broaden horizons. The new evangelization is the opposite of self-sufficiency, a withdrawal into oneself, a status quo mentality and an idea that pastoral programs are simply to proceed as they did in the past. Today a 'business as usual' attitude can no longer be the case. Some local Churches, already engaged in renewal, reconfirm the fact that now is the time for the Church to call upon every Christian community to evaluate their pastoral practice on the basis of the missionary character of their program and activities."

—*Synod of Bishops, The New Evangelization for the  
Transmission of Christian Faith, Lineamenta, #10*



### *Saint Thomas More Parish*

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Dear Friends – Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are making progress, yet still have a lot of work to do. During our first full year of collaboration, Sacred Heart and Saint Thomas More (Braintree & Weymouth) have reorganized our business operations, created a central office and made changes in personnel and programming. These efforts have allowed us realize our new identity as a "Family of Faith," two independent parishes, with a school, as one Collaborative.

The Parishes of Sacred Heart and St. Thomas More have long been vibrant pillars of the

Catholic faith in Braintree and Weymouth. Independently our history is rich, together as a collaborative, we are challenged to rebuild and renew the faith of this particular community of faith within the local church here in the Archdiocese of Boston. Your generosity and faithfulness enables us to continue to move forward with the mission of the Church: to preach and teach the Good News of Jesus Christ.

This year we have remodeled our independent parish finance councils and are beginning some collaborative fiscal forecasting and planning, along with our new development council, and new facilities planning group.

Our Offertory is strong despite a low percentage of registered parishioners being donors "of record." The Development program will seek to improve on this number through stewardship and strategic outreach. With this framework now in place and with the assistance of my Finance Council and our Business & Finance Manager we are committed to assuring each parish and school is financially stable, responsive and accountable today and for years to come.

Each year your pastor is to report back to his parish, a stewardship report. I want to publicly thank my parish finance council, my vice-chair, Charles Gillis, along with Thomas Norton and Robert Clifford and my Business & Finance Manager, Kathleen Smith, for their generous hours and most excellent counsel and fiscal responsibility. I also want to thank Joanne Bibeau for all her work preparing us for the transition.

Please know that I am grateful to each of you, for your many kindnesses, your good works, example and your generosity to the parish and to the poor. I am also grateful for your patience and prayerful support, as we enter into the next year of Disciples in Mission.

As I reported last year, change is not easy and we are continually challenged. Our desire for growth and holiness will help us to grow and Evangelize. Now we are entering into a new phase of our the collaborative: we are called to rebuild, renew and implement the Disciples in Mission initiative. I am convinced that together we will plant the foundation for a renewal that will effect the generations that follow us.

In His Mercy, Fr. Sean

## Second Year of Collaboration

During our first few years in collaboration, it is important for me to continue to analyze our collaboration. We refer our analyzing to the reports, which paired Sacred Heart and Saint Thomas More parishes in the new collaborative model. Our Sacramental index remains steady. The Mass attendance notes a five-year declining trend. We also note the financial instability of the first year and a half. Our reserves and deficit income trend our concerning, but we have plans in place to offset this need for increased spending. We still have much deferred maintenance and continued cost of living increases.

As I stated last year, upon analyzing the income and expenses over nearly a ten-year period, and using the US Inflation Calculator, the report estimates a cumulative rate of inflation of 25.3% over the past ten years. Our income has remained relatively predictable with some seasonal small increases and decreases over the past five years. Over the past five years to overcome deficits due to rising costs of utilities, fuel, medical insurance and liability insurance, and employee compensation, the parish has made financial cuts to programs to keep the budget online. It should be noted that there are still many additional infrastructure investments and capital improvements necessary for the next year and the years ahead. We have attended to much deferred maintenance and we are now preparing to report to you on the structural evaluation of the former St Thomas Grammar school and the Engineer's evaluation of the property adjacent to the church and school. My advisors and the Archdiocese have agreed on a plan to move ahead with our analyzing and I will keep you up to date.

I have continued to work with the finance team, Archdiocesan Finance and Development offices, and our newly formed Archdiocesan Development consulting group. We have determined that we need to access and include an increased offering program as part of this year's (2016-17) sacrificial giving and budgetary process and a plan for moving ahead and continuing to both fund and care for

the property and provide for the people of Saint Thomas More parish.

This year (fiscal 2016-2017) we will continue to organize our staffing, continue ongoing training with our collaborative staff, refine our collaborative job positions and refine collaborative parish model.

## Sacramental & Mass Attendance

We continue to have about 488 parishioners who come to Mass on an average weekend. We have reported to you throughout the year the attendance at each Mass at the corresponding variables. This information will help us to plan ahead. **This fiscal year (20) twenty persons were Baptized, (35) thirty-five received First Holy Communion, (45) forty-five were confirmed, (1) one couple was married and (17) seventeen persons were buried.**

As part of the planning and implementation of Disciples in Mission we will continue to evaluate our Mass and Liturgical schedule, new Family Faith Formation program and all the ways we live our lives of faith together.

## Fiscal Report July '15 to June '16

Parish Income	Parish Expenses
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Collections	\$ 263,579.14	Lay Salaries	\$ 242,544.78
Grand Annual	\$ 45,595.00	Benefits	\$ 50,378.82
Candles & Flowers	\$ 3,073.00	Clergy Stipends	\$ 29,026.67
Sacramental Offerings	\$ 14,135.00	Clergy Health Tax	\$ 11,623.00
Religious Ed and Youth Programs	\$ 15,885.00	Charitable works	\$ 9,835.31
Gifts, charities, bequests	\$ 9,468.69	Religious Ed and Youth Program	\$ 13,412.53
Rent Rectory	\$ 11,400.00	Parish Tithe to School Tax	\$ 13,487.04
Interest/dividends	\$ 1,217.13	Capital Improvements	\$ 49,497.98
Catholic Appeal rebate	\$ 18,139.20	Facilities, Utilities, Maintenance, contracts	\$ 108,370.42
Other Income	\$ 18,107.47	Insurance	\$ 18,335.32
		Central Ministries Tithe	\$ 15,209.04
		Fundraising, Fees, Advertis	\$ 5,953.63
		Liturgical Supplies, other	\$ 15,783.63
		Rectory Household	\$ 16,364.70
		Interest Exp	\$ 274.92

<b>Total Income =</b>	<b>\$ 400,599.63</b>	<b>Total Expenses =</b>	<b>\$ 600,097.79</b>
		Less Cap Expenses=	- 49,497.98
		Less Maintenance =	-108,370.42
		w/o Cap/Maintenances=	\$442,229.39