

§ "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 Report Fiscal Year
July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

"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

Collaborative office
55 Commercial Street Weymouth, MA
02188

Phone: 781-337-6333
Email: frsean@shstm.org
Web: www.shstm.org

2015 Report

Dear Friends – Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year your pastor reports back to his parish, a stewardship report, prepared by our dedicated business and finance team. I want to publicly thank my parish finance council, my vice-chair, Charles Gillis, Thomas Norton and Robert Clifford, and our entire business team for their for their generous hours and most excellent counsel and fiscal responsibility.

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 grateful for your care, patience and prayerful support, as we have entered into Disciples in Mission. I know the past almost two years have been hard for us all. Change is not easy! But it is good for us and helps us to grow.

In 2013 the Pastoral Planning Office prepared a report analyzing the past few years, while also showing indicators on the past ten years. The report noted that the last three years showed a decrease in Mass attendance by 10% and a decrease in the Sacramental index over the past ten years. Our analysis also shows that over the past ten years that there has been a level income, coinciding with 25% increases in spending due to cost of living and increased expenses (utility, insurance, salaries). The result has required a fiscally conservative model to balance the budget, requiring cuts in programming and spending with a greater dependence on outside sources of income so as to not deficit spend. Although we operated with a net-profit, this only happened with lack of maintenance, cuts in budgets and little growth.

Many things have changed over the last year and now we are entering into a new phase of our Catholic life and we are called to rebuild, renew and implement the Disciples in Mission initiative. This year and the years ahead will be challenging, but I am convinced that together we will plant the foundation for a renewal that will effect the generations that follow us. Please know that I take this appointment with great seriousness and know that I have an obligation to render a full account to the Lord, what He in His goodness has shared with each of us and what we have inherited through the goods works of our predecessors.

In His love, Fr. Sean

First Year of Collaboration

During our first few years in collaboration, it is important for me to note and analyze the time period preparing for collaboration. In December of 2014, I received the report from the office of Pastoral Planning. Prior to taking his new assignment, the office of Pastoral Planning so that a report and analysis could be created for the incoming pastor, so that he could begin the implementation of Disciples in Mission.

The report proposed the pairing of Sacred Heart and Saint Thomas More parishes in the new collaborative model. The report notes that although Sacramental index remains steady, the Mass attendance had a five-year declining trend. The report notes that the parish is financially stable and has reserves, although the income has a five-year declining trend based on income, spending, deferred maintenance and cost of living increases. 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. Last year, I began some much deferred maintenance that would have to immediately attend to.

I have continued to work with the finance team, Archdiocesan Finance and Development offices, and our consulting firm, Cornerstone Fundraising. 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. I have also reviewed and increased the Sacramental offerings in conjunction with the policies of the Archdiocese of Boston.

Over the past year we have begun new initiatives to invest strongly into the infrastructure of the Parish Properties.

We have begun a plan to analyze future use of the land behind the church and former Saint Thomas More 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.

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 550 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 23 twenty-three persons were baptized, 29 twenty-nine received First Holy Communion, 67 sixty-seven were confirmed, 0 zero couples were married and ninety 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 '14 to June '15

Parish Income		Parish Expenses	
Collections	\$ 276,506.03	Lay Salaries	\$ 242,105.58
Grand Annual	\$ 45,225.00	Benefits	\$ 58,144.76
Lease (parking lot)	\$ 6,000.00	Clergy Stipends	\$ 38,885.29
Candles & Flowers	\$ 4,504.00	Clergy Health Tax	\$ 17,010.00
Sacramental Offerings	\$ 16,440.00	Charitable works	\$ 9,010.65
Religious Ed and Youth Programs	\$ 10,535.00	Religious Ed and Youth Program	\$ 10,120.13
Gifts, charities, bequests	\$ 18,108.72	Parish Tithe to School Tax	\$ 13,943.04
Interest/dividends	\$ 1,942.92	Capital Improvements	\$ 365,015.26
Rent Rectory	\$ 6,600.00	Facilities, Utilities, Maintenance, contracts	\$ 79,266.74
Spiritual Bouquet	\$ 4,521.00	Insurance	\$ 17,532.00
Other Income	\$ 8,127.41	Central Ministries Tithe	\$ 15,723.00
Catholic Appeal rebate	\$ 16,412.97	Fundraising, Fees, Advertis	\$ 14,853.65
		Liturgical Supplies, other	\$ 18,329.61
		Rectory Household	\$ 10,811.95

Total Income =	\$ 414,923.05	Total Expenses =	\$ 910,752.32
		Less Cap Expenses=	- 365,015.26
		w/o Cap Expenses=	545,737.06