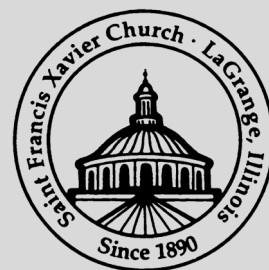


**SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH**  
**33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**November 13, 2022**



STEWARDSHIP



Devote Time with God

Share Talent

Give Treasure

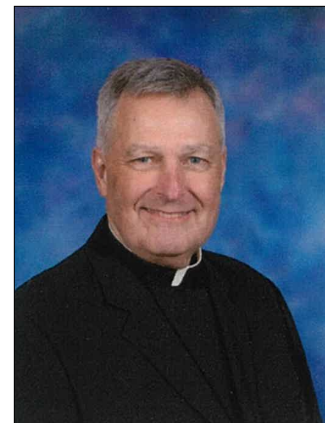
**2022 ANNUAL REPORT**



## Pastor's Letter

### Reaching Out and Reaching Across

The fiscal year that ended June 30, 2022, was a transition to a time of connecting with one another face-to-face and person-to-person. The year opened with welcoming a new Director of Religious Education for an expanded yet still virtual program and ended with a Parish Family Party in the parking lot. We began to see familiar faces, to get to know new faces, and to return to activities that had been on hold or significantly restricted. The year also brought the first phase of Renew My Church which helped us to develop a vision of how we experience God's call on our journey forward. The Parish Pastoral Council sought parishioner feedback on ways to increase engagement in parish life and our mission. It was a year of laying the groundwork to help us **reach out** and **reach across** to even more people.



Last year, I asked each household to focus on stewardship of time by devoting regular time to prayer and presence with God. I hope you and your household have developed some new habits to deepen your relationship with Jesus. **This year, I am asking us all to focus on the stewardship of talent.** With the restrictions of the past few years, the number of active parish ministers decreased for various reasons. This now provides a great opportunity for those of you not yet engaged in parish ministries to bring your talents to the table. Consider whether you are being called to share your gifts with the parish in some area of ministry. Let go of any thought that this invitation is "not really to you." **This invitation is for you to get engaged** as your talents and availability permit. We each have some part in bringing our mission in Christ to life in our community.

An inspiring example of our mission in action was the development of a virtual, grade-level Religious Education Program. Since the Education Building remained unavailable due to COVID restrictions, our new DRE, Elis Guidice, recruited thirteen catechists to record bi-weekly lessons for each grade level. Many parents chose to sit in on these broadcasts and learn along with their children. This generous **stewardship of talent** provided a quality program to engage our children in their ongoing faith formation. You will find more about what was accomplished in another part of this report.

I do ask each household to consider prayerfully the financial investment you can offer to fund our mission and ministries this year. I offer a special word of thanks to you who donate to the parish electronically or via special gifts. All of you who have made monetary offerings by any method kept us stable through the uncertainties of the past two years and **you keep our mission vibrant.** See the letter from the parish Finance Council for their perspective on our current financial situation.

I thank you for taking the time to review the enclosed Annual Report. I thank our Director of Stewardship and Operations, Jennifer Zeisloft, our Accountant, Jane Bandyk, and the parishioners who serve on our parish Finance Council for their dedication and counsel during the past year. We are blessed to have such wise stewards of our resources.

**God bless you all.** Your faithful stewardship of Saint Francis Xavier continues to make us a community of faith in which all are welcome to come to know and serve the Lord Jesus. May we continue to **reach out and reach across** and live our mission in Christ.

Peace,

*J. Bill*

# Stewardship

## Devoting Time in Prayer

Devoting time in prayer is the most powerful way we, as Catholics, can minister to others. The SFX Ministry of Care program serves this purpose in two major ways: **through our dedicated priests and compassionate volunteers.**

**Our priests** administer the Anointing of the Sick at all hours of the day and night. SFX uses an outside answering service so that parishioners who call for emergencies can be connected to Fr. Bill or Fr. Rich, no matter the time. Fr. Rich shared, *“My cell phone rang, and I thought that it was a clock alarm reminding me that it was time to get up and go to Mass. Then I realized that it was 4:00 AM and it was an emergency call from La Grange Hospital requesting a priest for anointing. I went there immediately, and I met the whole family and we prayed together. After performing the priestly duties, I was surprised and dumbfounded by the appreciation shown to me by the family. Sometime later I was asked to do the funeral service for the deceased father, and his son-in-law sent me this email: ‘Father Rich, we met briefly about a month ago when you were kind enough to administer last rites in the middle of the night for my father-in-law at La Grange Hospital.’ The Parish mission is to be there for those who need us the most.”*



**Volunteer parishioners** bring the gift of the Eucharist and fellowship to those who are homebound, living in nursing homes, and recovering in the hospital. Their visits help those in need stay connected to SFX and our faith community. **Scott McDonald, our Ministry of Care Coordinator**, shared a story about how this devotion of time in prayer with others brought a deeper spiritual awareness of the impact made through his service. *“I was bringing weekly Communion to a gentleman who was staying at his daughter’s home. He was very ill and soon entered hospice. We became close over several months until his passing. I went to the wake and funeral. I was so surprised*

*at the wake when many people turned as I entered, and the daughter said, ‘This is the man I was telling you about.’ The family was so grateful. It was truly a spiritual awakening for me.”*

## Sharing Talents

For the past five years and more, SFX is blessed to have the expertise of committed parishioners serving as members of our **Buildings and Grounds Committee: Jim Andreoni (architect), Patrick Lach (civil engineer), Keli Dudek (structural engineer), Clay Edwards (commercial construction), and Frank Mungo (not pictured) (heating/cooling).** This committee is a consultative body which assists the Pastor, Facility Manager, and Finance Council in planning for building improvements and repair of our entire campus, including our beautiful church. In the past, their talents were on full display throughout the construction of Unity Hall and renovations of the gym, Joyce Hall, and exterior parking lot renovations. As Frank Mungo notes: *“Each committee member brings an expertise that reflects their talents, which are lovingly accepted by the people of our faith community. It’s an honor to serve St. Francis Xavier Parish!”*



# Stewardship

*(continued from the previous page)*

Looking ahead, **the B&G Committee has recommended the replacement of the second-floor roof of the Education Building during the summer of 2023.** In order to gain the correct pitch to rid problems with standing water, the B&G Committee has also advised replacement of the south-facing windows, on the third floor of the school, with new masonry, before the new roof is constructed. Based on bids received, **SFX is setting aside \$630,000 in cash savings** for this project. Our development efforts will endeavor to raise funds to partially offset the cost of these capital improvements. The talents shared by the B&G Committee keep our parish facilities running smoothly and wisely!

## Giving Treasure

A portion of your offertory gift to SFX supported 538 students enrolled in our Religious Education (RE) program last school year, whose families committed to a Catholic foundation for their young ones. Led by Elis Guidice, our Director of Religious Education, we navigated our second school year of COVID-19 disruption by creating purposeful and faith-filled connections between our catechists, our students and our RE families. Some highlights include:

- Sunday Mass participation. A deliberate focus was placed on weekly Mass attendance (in-person or virtual) by all RE families, emphasizing the importance of devoting time in prayer and thanksgiving to God, one of the main tenets of stewardship.
- Parent engagement. The online nature of our School of RE brought some unexpected blessings to our parish families. Parents have always been the primary source of teaching their children about Christ's love, but this instruction took on another dimension last year. Even with 13 volunteers stepping forward to share their talents as grade-level catechists, parents (and maybe even some older siblings!) also became "formal" catechists in their own homes. RE parent and **catechist Lisa Parolin** shared, *"Our family enjoyed the flexibility the on-line religious education program provided and it allowed us to come together as a family to discuss our faith and the concepts being taught. As a catechist and parent, I was reminded of things I was taught in my Catholic school years and also learned some things along the way through my children's lessons. I am extremely grateful for our on-line experience and the important conversations it fostered in our home."*
- Technology. Before our return to an in-person program this year, we invested in technology in the Education Building classrooms that enables our RE catechists to incorporate the new up-to-date Loyola Press digital library in our children's bi-monthly formation. For example, lessons now involve interactive tools and videos, providing a new way to engage the RE students.



The logistical challenges of offering a virtual grade-level RE program last year served as a springboard to offer BOTH online AND in-person classes this year. Not many parishes are offering both options, but we felt that it was important to allow families to have the option to select the program that fit their family best. We have a total of 611 students enrolled this year – an increase of over 10% from last year!

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms...If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."*

– 1 Peter 4:10-11

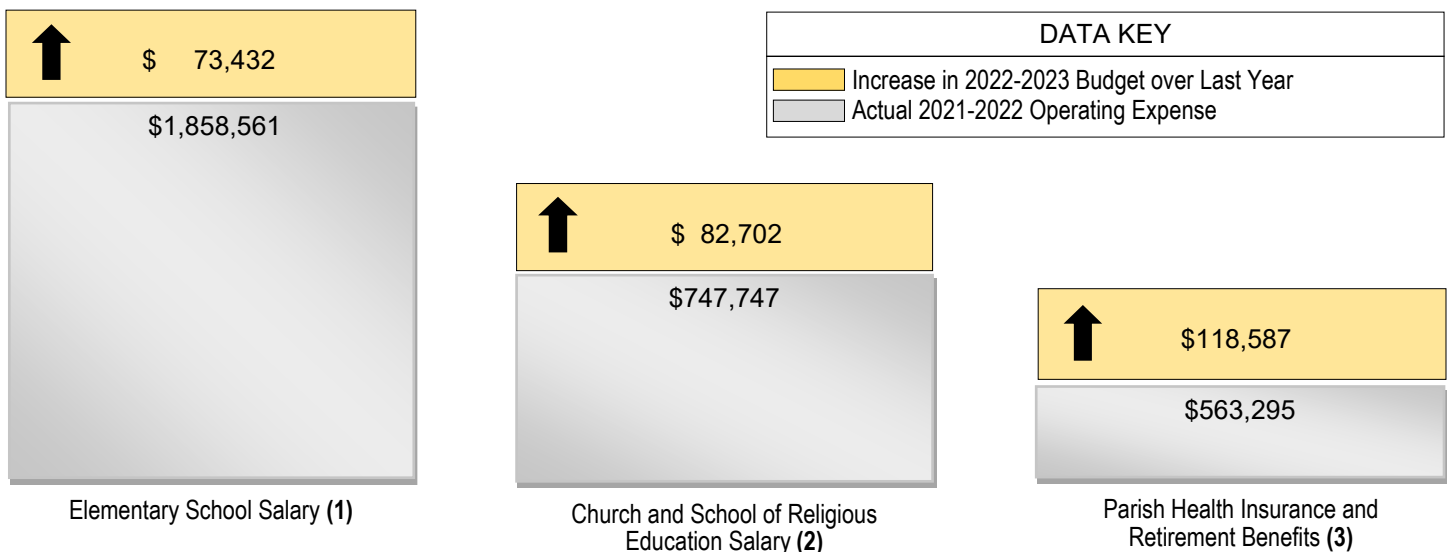
# Finance Council Letter

To our Fellow Parishioners,

We have immense gratitude and appreciation for what our church family has been able to accomplish together. Last year, we asked you to support our mission with a 4% offertory increase and **we are happy to report that you helped us meet that goal**. We were able to sustain our commitment to enriching the faith life of those who call St. Francis Xavier home, and plan for a strong and sustainable future for the parish.

As members of the Finance Council, we are charged with mapping out not only how our parish will thrive financially this year, but for years to come. While we give thanks to God for his abundant blessings of increased Mass attendance and offertory giving in comparison to last year, it is prudent that we take a clear and deliberate look at our financial future as a faith community. Areas of focus for the Finance Council include maintaining our high quality elementary school and parish ministries during a time of increasing operational and capital costs. In an effort to address these factors, we realigned our resources and charged Jennifer Zeisloft to devote half of her time towards further developing our Stewardship of Treasure as the Director of Stewardship and Operations. In addition, we hired an outside consultant to help formulate a strategy to ensure there is a deliberate focus on fundraising and long-term financial growth.

While we did meet our offertory goals last year, the operating surplus was largely due to a few large budgeted expenses that were not actualized. As you see in the charts below, **these expenses will be back in the budget this fiscal year as well as an increase in operating expenses associated with inflation**.



- (1) Salary raises averaging 4%
- (2) Addition of youth minister position and evening rectory receptionists; salary raises
- (3) Return of retirement contributions to all benefits-eligible employees after two year suspension of this benefit; 10% health care increase

**In order to continue the fullness of our mission, we ask our fellow parishioners to consider a 5% increase in your offertory gift for fiscal year 2023. Our budget for this fiscal year was approved with an operating deficit of \$178,000, after taking into account a 5% offertory increase.** The expense increases noted above return our services and employee benefits to pre-COVID levels. Please know that every dollar you contribute to St. Francis Xavier is purposefully and prayerfully used in service of our shared purpose and commitment to growing in a faith community.

While we invite everyone to consider a **5% increase** in giving, we know this might not be possible for all of our parishioners. Please know that no matter the amount, **your gift matters**. Whether you contribute stock, commit to a recurring electronic gift or place a \$5 bill in the offertory basket on Sunday - you are making a difference. All we ask is that you spend some time in prayer and commit to a gift that is meaningful to your family.

With gratitude,  
 The SFX Finance Council  
 Mike Bruni, Jennifer Driscoll, Tom Kostal, Rob Metzger, Meredith Ritchie, Jim Owen

# Finance Report

During budget preparation, the Finance Council, Operations Director, and Principal strive to present the Pastor with a budget for approval whereby income equals expenses. For the 2022-2023 budget, the Finance Council recommended the use of the \$152,062 surplus from the 2021-2022 year, combined with a 5% offertory increase, to substantially offset the \$178,512 deficit.

	Actual 6/30/2021	Actual 6/30/2022	Budget 6/30/2023	Budget Change
<b>OPERATING CHURCH REVENUE</b>				
Sundays, Holy Days, Christmas & Easter	\$ 1,679,364	\$ 1,743,632	\$ 1,833,000	
Other Operating Income	104,932	59,015	71,250	
Religious Education Tuition, Fees, and Fundraising	99,725	93,785	114,585	
<b>Total Church Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,884,021</b>	<b>\$ 1,896,432</b>	<b>\$ 2,018,835</b>	<b>\$ 122,403</b>
<b>OPERATING CHURCH/RECTORY EXPENSES</b>				
Salaries, FICA, Health, Retirement Share, Prof Growth	\$ 766,177	\$ 824,898	\$ 956,522	
Archdiocesan Admin, Priest Retirement	256,736	256,736	232,166	
Occupancy Expense	195,726	236,242	223,995	
Liturgical and Administrative Expense	124,963	126,696	155,581	
School Subsidy (see below)	388,124	152,507	455,424	
Religious Education Expenses	131,824	147,291	173,659	
<b>Total Church/Rectory Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,863,550</b>	<b>\$ 1,744,369</b>	<b>\$ 2,197,347</b>	<b>\$ 452,978</b>
<b>NET CHURCH OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ 20,471</b>	<b>\$ 152,062</b>	<b>\$ (178,512)</b>	

<b>DAY SCHOOL REVENUE</b>				
Tuition, Fees and Misc. Operating Income	\$ 2,318,463	\$ 2,509,566	\$ 2,388,780	
Fundraising	203,457	266,148	274,000	
<b>Total School Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 2,521,920</b>	<b>\$ 2,775,714</b>	<b>\$ 2,662,780</b>	<b>\$ (112,934)</b>
<b>DAY SCHOOL EXPENSES</b>				
Salaries, FICA, Health, Retirement Share, Prof Growth	\$ 2,431,847	\$ 2,422,000	\$ 2,578,627	
Occupancy Expense	244,368	279,956	270,577	
Instructional, Technology, and Other Operating Expense	233,829	226,265	269,000	
<b>Total School Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,910,044</b>	<b>\$ 2,928,221</b>	<b>\$ 3,118,204</b>	<b>\$ 189,983</b>
<b>(DEFICIT/SUBSIDY FROM PARISH)</b>	<b>\$ (388,124)</b>	<b>\$ (152,507)</b>	<b>\$ (455,424)</b>	

## Financial Summary of this fiscal year compared to last fiscal year:

- Elementary School revenue is budgeted to decrease by \$112,934 this year, with enrollment declining from 449 to 418 students. This decline was the result of the graduation of a large 8th grade class, combined with lower enrollment in the three-year-old preschool class.
- Church and School of Religious Education expenses are budgeted to increase \$150,061 over last year.
- Elementary School expenses are budgeted to increase \$189,983 over last year.

The subsidy of \$152,507 to the Elementary School last fiscal year was the lowest in decades, and mainly the result of higher tuition from enrollment and federal/state funding grants, as well as lower expenses associated with the suspension of certain retirement benefits. The projected subsidy of \$455,424 this year is in line with subsidies prior to 2020. Current tuition for a family with one student (K – 8th grade) is \$6,360.

Operating church revenue is budgeted to increase by \$122,403, with most of that budget relying on a 5% increase in offertory donations from our parishioners. The offertory target of \$1,833,000 approaches our last “normal” operating fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, when offertory totaled \$1,842,411.

# Other Financial Information and Statistics

## STATEMENT OF CASH POSITION

	<u>6/30/2019</u>	<u>6/30/2020</u>	<u>6/30/2021</u>	<u>6/30/2022</u>	
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
Cash and Savings on Deposit	799,186	944,564	1,758,742	1,460,214	Note 1
Current Cash Liabilities	439,461	471,293	540,551	545,359	
<b>Net Cash Position</b>	<b><u>\$ 359,725</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 473,272</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,218,191</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 914,855</u></b>	
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Building Fund	68,938	69,362	197,301	178,559	
Education Building Roof				630,000	Note 1
Payroll Protection Program (PPP)	-	690,202	-	-	
Capital Campaign Fund	165,822	98,742	-	-	
Parish Endowment Fund	213,172	211,928	277,486	267,155	Note 2
Educational Endowment Fund	777,733	783,427	1,032,065	976,425	Note 2
<b>Restricted Funds on Deposit</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,225,665</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,853,660</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,506,852</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 2,052,139</u></b>	

**Note 1: Unrestricted Savings have been reclassified as restricted in order to fund the Education Building Roof project, which will commence in summer 2023. For more details about this project, see this Annual Report under Stewardship of Talent.**

**Note 2: Decrease is primarily attributable to market losses.**

## OTHER GIVING

In addition to the Operating Revenue noted in our Finance Report above, SFX received directed donations for the following Outreach ministries:

Annual Catholic Appeal 2022 (Payments through June 2022)	\$ 90,304
SFX Food Pantry Donations from Individuals	63,480
SFX Food Pantry - Donations from Organizations	5,626
St. Agatha Parish	18,690
Other Charitable Organizations (for complete list <a href="#">click here</a> )	<u>70,975</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$249,075</u></b>

## Enrollment Statistics Current Fiscal Year (as of October 2022)

**Day School Enrollment**  
418

**Religious Education Enrollment**  
611

**Confirmation Formation**  
125  
(formerly Quest)

## Parish Statistics 2021-2022 Fiscal Year

**Baptism**  
70

**Confirmations**  
115

**Funerals/Burials**  
73

**First Communion**  
134

**Marriages**  
63

**Newly Registered Families**  
105