

An update from the Parish & Center Controller...

Fr. Steve has asked me to review the Parish's financial status with the parishioners in this letter. The Parish staff is trying to make the wisest decisions possible to endure this demanding economic period. The same as a business or a family budget, some of our expenses can be controlled and managed. Other expenses are set by outside agencies and cannot be changed. As reported in an earlier letter, Maintenance has been trying to do everything possible to hold down our heating and utility bills. This would be a perfect example of containing an expense that can be controlled.

As part of the Diocese of Trenton, expenses such as insurance, pension and our portion of Diocesan administration cannot be controlled. As a member of the Diocese our costs and responsibilities are determined and billed to the Parish accordingly. These have been rising at a higher rate than our revenues. To a certain extent, our cost cutting elsewhere has helped to absorb some of the increases. The decision was made to freeze staff salaries for the next fiscal year.

This year we have been doing a good job of matching the prior year's collections and other donations. Given the country's circumstances, I think that's doing pretty well. However, if on a given Sunday you feel that you might be able to afford to contribute perhaps \$5 instead of \$1 or \$2, it would be greatly appreciated. This is what it will take to keep us at a breakeven point while waiting for the better days we all hope are ahead. Thank you for the generosity you have always bestowed upon Saint Francis of Assisi Parish. It's part of what has always made this parish special.

John Platt