

Following are the minutes to the 9-25-07 Finance Council Meeting.

Opening Prayer led by Fr. Seigel.

1. New Member Welcome. Council welcomed three new members - Leann Dunlap, Sandy Ellsworth and Ted Ellsworth. Finance Council is now back at full strength, with six rotating members.
2. Discussion of Stewardship: A Disciple's Response, Chapter 2.
3. Financial Reports. Average Collection Per Week continues to improve, with July-Sept 2007 16% better than same quarter in 2006. August collections were unusually strong, with September collections coming back down to earth.

Total Operating Income is \$48.4k (\$10.2k favorable vs. budget). This was driven by strong Sunday Offertory and a \$1.2k RE donation. \$3.8k of this favorable variance is due to timing - RE fees collected in third quarter but budgeted in fourth quarter.

Operating Expenses were \$36.8k unfavorable vs. budget, due to unbudgeted Diocesan Assessment of \$41.5. Excluding this assessment, operating expenses were \$4.7k favorable vs. budget.

Operating Deficit (Operating Income less Operating Expenses) was \$39.8k. Excluding the Diocesan Assessment, we achieved a Surplus of \$1.7k (\$14.9k favorable vs. budget).

Pledges toward Diocesan Appeal are currently \$6,475 (21%) higher than target.

4. Pastoral Council Update. Nothing new to report on Crucifix Committee. Contract is signed for the lighting project, with installation to occur in October. During the August storms, the basement was flooded. A contractor will be evaluating alternatives with regard to regarding land and/or resealing the foundation. Finally, the Parish Hall rental policy is still being drafted.
5. Cemetery Discussion. St. Catherine's charges \$450 for a cemetery plot. Recent study found that this is below surrounding communities: Sycamore Public (\$700), DeKalb Public (\$700), DeKalb St. Mary's (\$600), Sycamore St. Mary's (\$800), Hampshire St. Charles (\$500 for parishioner, \$1000 non-parishioner), Belvidere St. James (\$750). Genoa Public is \$350 for resident and \$450 for non-resident. Finance Council decided a price increase is warranted. Phasing of this increase and communication to parish will be decided at next meeting.
6. Handicap Accessibility. Nothing new to report.
7. Next Meeting is scheduled for November 8 at 7:00 p.m.
8. Closing Prayer led by Fr. Seigel