

St. Catherine of Genoa
Finance Council Minutes

Following are the minutes to the 6-5-08 Finance Council meeting:

1. Financial Update. Collections in April and May have rebounded since a slow winter. April/May collections were \$3,681/week, up 18% from April-June of 2007. April/May 2008 collections are also up 9% vs. Jan-Mar 2008. May was an especially strong month, which is counter to the typical seasonal trend we see. The strong collections in the past two months reinforce the thought that perhaps the severe weather last winter contributed greatly to the decrease in collections during this time.

April YTD Net Income was \$7.5k as compared with a \$6.6k budget. By the end of the year, we expect a small Net Loss, mostly due to timing of large bills not yet paid (e.g. concrete repair). April YTD Sunday Offertory was \$6.1k below budget, although this budget shortfall has since been reduced to \$1.4k due to a strong May. Building, Utilities & Grounds expenditures were \$14.4k above budget, due to several unbudgeted items including waterproofing (\$4.5k), mowers (\$3.0k), extra snow plowing (\$2.2k), alter/table (\$1.6k) and carpet (\$1.5k).

DSP/08 Diocese of Rockford appeal looking good. Through 3-31-08, pledges total \$35.0k, as compared with a parish goal of \$33.5k and a diocese goal of \$30.5k.

Welcoming at New Levels pledges are now at \$158.4k, only 21% short of the \$200k goal. Total amount paid to date is \$65.3k.

2. Foundation Investment Strategy. Quarterly performance of the foundation investments was reviewed. This prompted an important philosophical discussion about investment strategy. The members of the council expressed differing levels of risk tolerance. No formal decision was made regarding changes to the investment strategy or portfolio allocation.
3. Pastoral Council Update. Pastoral Council is currently exploring refinishing the parking lot. They will also begin working on a capital expenditure plan. All council members were asked to brainstorm and put together a "wish list" that can then be documented and prioritized.
4. Budget Items for Consideration.
 1. What should we budget for an increase in Sunday offertory? Initial reaction was to begin with zero-growth as an initial assumption.
 2. Hispanic ministries - doing better but still losing money.
 3. Rob will work with Jill on finalizing the budget proposal to be presented at next Finance Council meeting.
5. Parish Audit Report. Recommended improvements involved:
 1. 1099 reporting.
 2. Men's Club reporting.
 3. Based on actuarial calculation, the Cemetery Income Care cash balance needs to increase by \$40k to ensure perpetual care of cemetery. 50% of all new grave sales need to go into this perpetual

care account, which consequently will reduce the \$ going into operating funds.

4. Auditors recommended teams of cash counters.
5. Auditors acknowledged segregation of duties will be difficult with small staff, but Jill promised to develop a backup plan should Jill be unable to perform her duties for a period of time.
6. Elevator Contract. Council discussed 5-year elevator service contract, which will also include an annual inspection. Council unanimously agreed that safety is the highest priority and also stated that it is in the parish's best interest to protect its investment and maintain the elevator in good condition. Therefore, council recommended that the parish should sign the 5-year contract, which will cost \$1770/year.
7. Next meeting is 7-17-08 to discuss budget.