

PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT
to The Catholic Church at Shrub Oak, New York

January - December 2011

Patronal Feast Day, January 2012

In the Year of Grace 2011, we saw God's Presence once again expressed in the day-by-day love of parishioner for parishioner and for the "stranger." We are *thriving* in fervent prayer, fraternal love, and heartfelt virtues with so many Setonians being nourished by the Word of God and the celebration of the Sacraments. Educating religiously--in our world-class parochial school, superb Religious Education Program, and wide variety of ongoing adult education venues--we continue to mature spiritually. Social justice initiatives and charitable endeavors, aimed at strengthening individuals and our local community, remain a priority. Financially speaking, it has been a good year and, because **we finished 2011 in the black**, I can report **the overall state of the parish is "excellent."** Thanks be to God and *you!* Some of the **sacramental statistics**, (Sep. 1, 2010 – Aug. 31, 2011), we reported to the *Archdiocesan* follow:

0 Adult Baptism (RCIA) 84 Masses of Christian Burial 1 Received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church (RCIA)
145 Anointing of the Sick 122 Infant/Children Baptism 216 Confirmation 254 First Reconciliation / First Eucharist 13 Marriages

An average of **2,606** people participate at the Sunday Eucharist, and **238 new households** were registered by our selfless rectory secretaries, **Mary Ellen Modico** and **Rosemarie Briganti** this year. [Believe me, they work many "miracles" . . . daily, along with **Noreen Donnellan**, parish webmaster.] Our extensive e-mail notification list allows me to send a **NewsFlash** to over **934** parishioner homes with *urgent* news at the touch of a button. If you are not signed up, go to our website, click on the *We Need Your E-Mail*, and follow instructions.

Along with the rest of the English-speaking world we were introduced to the Roman Missal, 3rd edition on the First Sunday of Advent with two months of preparation. We said *farewell* to **Louise Frangella**, Religious Education Primary School Coordinator, to **Elizabeth Merriam**, ParentCare Coordinator, and to **Michael DeNobile**, co-Youth Minister, all of whom remain model parishioners. We said *hello* to **Amy Kelley**, CYFM *Cap Corps Volunteer*, as Youth Minister. We celebrated the diaconate ordination of **Richard Juliano**, along with his wife and children, with great enthusiasm. We participated in the process for the Archdiocesan regionalization of parish schools (***Pathways to Excellence***), and formed a committee for the process of consolidation of parishes (***Making All Things New***). We formed a **Golden Jubilee Committee** to plan the year-long, 50th anniversary celebration of our parish foundation, the beginning of which we will observe on the weekend of **June 23rd**. We agreed, along with four other local parishes, to fund a Catholic **hospital chaplain** at Hudson Valley Medical Center.

In **our celebrated parish school**, our superb teachers continue to create a unique *seedbed of education* and Christian character formation. For four and a half decades, **Sr. Gabriel** and the faculty have worked hard to make it so for our children, and it shows. We thank our parents for entrusting us with their precious ones, and we reassure them of our commitment to a *safe* learning environment.

339 Seton school students 25 Faculty members 1 Nurse

In our multifaceted **Religious Education program**, with so many, many, dedicated volunteers, and a supportive staff in the office, there were many happy faces and active minds on both ends of the educational conversation. It is here where the majority of our youngsters are introduced to a loving God.

1396 Religious Ed. students 157 Catechists, aides, and babysitters

Seton volunteers, who work regularly with children in our parish, must submit to a background check by the Archdiocese of New York, and attend a "Safer Spaces" seminar, either at Seton or at another parish. **Seton employees who work regularly with children** must submit to a background check and attend a more in-depth seminar, "Protecting God's Children."

OUR MINISTRY

Here is a comprehensive, though *not exhaustive*, list of the activities of our *very busy*, parish family:

Participants

“☐” indicates a new initiative

- +++ **Adult Faith Formation** 53 post-baptism letters, **90 Book Club** (10 sessions) [see “Book Club” below]
- 90 **Anointing of the Sick Mass**, Annual
- 213 **Ball, Third Annual Parish**, honoring **Monsignor Josphe Giandurco** (14 volunteers)
Profits by our Development Committee: **\$10,075** for the parish *Emergency Maintenance Fund*
- +++ **Bereavement Ministry** 900 Quarterly Bereavement Mass relatives of those buried at Seton 85 Bereavement group
 200 Annual Children’s Memorial Mass for parents and relatives 600 Remembrance Mass, 9-11 (Sunday)
- 19 ☐ **Bible Study, Women’s** (new name and focus for Tuesday Morning Bible Study)
- 61 **Birthday blessings**, monthly; small gifts distributed at our monthly (Saturday Vigil) Children’s Mass
- 80 **Blessing of Animals** (pets), *The Gathering of the Creatures Choir*, celebrated near the feast day of Saint Francis
- +++ ☐ **Blessing of Merchants** [pre-Christmas] by Monsignor and Mother Claire, St Mary’s Episcopal Church; 60 stores
- +++ **Blood Drives** (2) 114 units of blood donated for the Hudson Valley Blood Services
- 9 ☐ **Book Club, Devotional**, sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society
- +++ **Boy Scouts** 3 Eagles 4 Courts of Honor 65 Advent Calendar 35 Advent Candle sets 4 Ad Altar Dei Awards 31 Summer Camp
- 1400 **Children’s Liturgy of the Word**, alternate Sundays
- +++ **Choir Concerts: Adults:** 15 Christmas (Mohegan Manor) **Children:** 8 Christmas 18 Spring (Treetops) 125 **Deacon Bruno Memorial**
- +++ **Church-State relations** 260 **Keep Christ in Christmas** magnets 60 **Voters registered**
- 35 **Communion Breakfast**, sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society
- +++ **Cub Scouts** 250 **Giving Tree**, benefitting foster care children 7 **Parvuli Dei Awards** 6 **Light of Christ Awards**
- +++ **CYO Basketball** 4 **Scholarship** (2 boys, 2 girls)
- 40 **Day of Recollection**, Annual, Parish, sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society
- 50 **Devotional Scripture booklets**, *The Word Among Us* (monthly)
- 57 **Dinner Theatre Trips (2)**, sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society
- +++ **Food Pantry, Community**, at *St. Mary’s Episcopal Church* [see “Outreach” below]
- +++ **Girl Scouts** 14 **I Live My Faith Awards** 19 **Family of God Awards** 11 **Bronze Awards** 9 **Silver Awards**
- 43 **Golf Outing**, sponsored by the Holy Name Society
- +++ **Homebound parishioners visitation** 50 **Monthly** 15 **Weekly** 64 **Christmas** by Holy Name Society
- 90 **Italian Mass, Annual: St. Francis of Assisi**, Celebrant: Msgr. Hilary Franco, St. Augustine Church, Ossining
- 3 ☐ **Making All Things New**, consolidation of Archdiocesan *parishes* committee meetings (3)
- 600 **Missalettes, Word and Song Books** (2010-2011) “give-aways” to parishioners
- 2100 **Mission, Parish**, (4 days) directed by eminent, retired Archdiocesan priest, **Fr. Aldo Tos, Ph D**
- 934 **“News Flash,” households**, mass parishioner e-mail list
- +++ **Nursing Home visitation: Treetops, 21 Masses** (2 x month) 2 **Mohegan Manor** (monthly) and **Masses** (2 x year)
- +++ **Outreach** 6 **March for Life** **Community Food Pantry** **Family meals:** 117 (weekly); 210 (holidays) 62 **Night of Prayer** 500 **Midnight Run**
 \$937 **Loose Change (Resp. Life)** 800 **Peekskill Area Pastors’ Program** 50 **CARE pkgs. United for Troops** 21 **Helping Hands**
Legion of Mary visits: 20 prison; 104 Rosary at Holy Comforter / Mohegan Manor; 72 Rosary Rally; ☐ 40 Post-baptism home visits
- +++ **Parent Recognition Days** 1500 **Mother’s Day carnations** (by Respect Life Committee)
- 97 **Pastors, Deceased, Remembrance Masses: Msgr. A. Nugent** (Nov. 27, 1981); **Msgr. E. Fogarty** (Aug. 2, 1996)
- 4 ☐ **Pathways to Excellence**, regionalization of Archdiocesan *schools* (4 meetings)
- +++ ☐ **Pilgrimage: 55 Shrine of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini**, Fort Washington, Manhattan
- 103 ☐ **Prayer Shawl Ministry** (17 knitters), Altar and Rosary Society
- 25 **Pumpkin fundraiser donors; God’s TYM / High School teens; donated to nursing home**
- +++ **Raffle, Monthly 50/50** [+ special Tag Sale raffle] Profits: **\$10,557** for the parish *Emergency Maintenance Fund*
- 1244 ☐ **Reconciliation Monday**, Archdiocesan-wide: Lent and Advent, confessions from 3:00 to 9:00 PM.
- +++ **Religious Education** 2 **Archdiocesan Certificates** 17 **Sun. classes** (2 x month) + 8 AM Mass 58 **classes, Mon., Wed., Thu.**
 87 **Catechetical Commissioning** 7 **classes, Saturday** (2x month) 190 **Retreat** (7th grade) 201 **Retreat** (8th grade)
 1 **Family Retreat** (6th grade) 1 **Pre-Confirmation Masses** (7th & 8th grades) 4 **Masses in Slow Motion** for 1st Eucharist
- 1348 **Rosaries** strung by our Rosary Makers for missionary and local (via Legion of Mary) distribution
- +++ **Retreat, Annual: 8 Men** Holy Name Society [first at Holy Family Retreat House, W. Hartford, CT]

- +++ **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), Catechumenate, *Becoming a Catholic***
 1 Rite of Continuing Conversion (Lent 2), Candidates for Sacraments 0 Rite of Welcome, Catechumens and Candidates for the Sacraments (Advent 1) 1 Rite of Sending (Lent 1), 0 Rite of Election (Lent 1), Catechumens, St. Patrick's Cathedral
- 108 **Roundtable**, monthly discussion group
- 51 **Safer Spaces Seminars** (6) for *all* those who work with children at Seton [see box at bottom of page 1.]
- 200 **Save a Life** afternoon presentation for teenagers, Yorktown Stage, sponsored by *Yorktown Interfaith Clergy*
- 40 **Santa Claus, Meet the Original**, parent and children blessing near *St. Nicholas of Myra* feast day
- 99 **Seniors' Prom** (senior citizens) sponsored by *God's TYM / High School* teens
- 40 **Seniors' Social** (senior citizens) sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society
- +++ **Seton School** 150 Awards Night 600 Midnight Run lunches 600 Book Fairs (2) 725 Cards for Shut-ins
 38 Confirmation Retreat, 43 Graduates 500 Christmas Fair 310 St. Patrick's Day 90 Retired Sisters reception 1600 Circus
 125 Open House 450 Christmas Pageant 525 Food Pantry 850 Family Thanksgiving 200 Regional *Respect Life* Teachers Conf.
- 2000 **Tag sale** (2 weekends), sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society **80 volunteers Profits: \$18,391.90**
- 65 **Vacation Bible Week**
- 125 **Valentine's Day** chocolates fundraiser by *God's TYM / High School* teens
- 275 **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**, Parish patronal feast day weekend
- +++ **Website, Parish: seton-parish.org**
 Average daily views: 84 **Top visitors** (by nation): 29,834 **USA**; 195 **Canada**; 117 **Philippines**; 78 **India** 56 **U. Kingdom**;
Top pages: Home, School, Mass & Sacraments, Rel. Education, Photos, Parish Groups, Funerals, Parish Contents, Upcoming Events, Site Map
- +++ **Wedding jubilee blessing and reception: 8 Silver Anniversary couples 8 Golden Anniversary couples**

OUR CHARITY

Several, large purchases, amounting to *thousands of dollars*, were **underwritten by parishioners** who prefer to remain anonymous. In addition, the parish, unexpectedly, received a substantial, **financial gift** which we are setting aside to use as a **seedbed foundation for a critically needed Parish Center** we hope to build someday. You should know, **6% of your overall donations went to external charity** through specific 2nd collections; e.g., Archdiocesan and national collections. Also, I call your attention to:

+ **Annual Stewardship Appeal** We exceeded our goal, (first time in 12 years!) **\$122,544 pledged \$121,860 paid 642 gifts** [5th largest in archdiocese]

+ **Bicentennial Capital Campaign (2008)** **\$1,147,096.50 pledged \$1,009,177.73 paid 657 gifts**

Completed projects: replacement of: kneelers, auditorium roof, rectory windows/siding, school and church bathrooms, and school water fountains; Youth Minister's office ceiling repair; replacement of 2 boilers; removal of 3 oil tanks; natural gas hookup for all parish buildings; removal of main church entrance curb; roof sealing; church ceiling/lighting replacement; church speakers rewiring

Remaining project: rectory garage

+ **Deacon Frank Bruno Memorial Room.** We exceeded our goal with **\$33,860** raised from over **148** voluntary donations. We are in the final planning stages for the construction of a **second parish meeting room** along with the rectory garage.

For almost 49 years, we have valiantly supported our vibrant parish with God's grace and remarkable parishioner generosity, and we shall go on with great enthusiasm. However, given that we will always have to meet rising expenses over which we have no control, I have increased my personal donations to our parish, and I ask you to **consider increasing your weekly Offertory donations (first collection), by \$5.00**, or by whatever amount you think fair for your family.

If your workplace has a "Matching Gift" program, multiply a donation to our parish school.

Remember, a donation to our precious school always benefits the entire parish, financially and otherwise.

Under the visionary direction of **Arthur Bortz and Ed Murgia**, the **Finance Council** members have been more intentional [and yet always respectful] in managing past-due tuition bills. In cooperation with our dependable and dedicated principal, **Sister Gabriel**, and the school bookkeeper, **Rosemarie Briganti**, their meticulous efforts, over the last year and a half, are nothing short of amazing, and all of us owe them a debt of gratitude. The **Pastoral Staff** remains committed to keeping our expenses down, and ministering to your families in a responsible manner. **Thank you for the sacrifices you continue to make** in sharing the many blessings God has given you with others in "the greatest parish in the world!"

PARISH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Shrub Oak, NY

January - December 2011

Mr. Fred Van Riper, Parish accountant / Plant manager

INCOME

2010

1,064,000
999,000
68,000
177,000
100,000
241,000
88,000
162,000

\$2,899,000

2011

1,072,000 First Collections, Sunday & Holy Day
1,278,000 Tuition, parish school
72,000 Books / supplies / cafeteria, school
265,000 Fundraisers, Church, school
137,000 Mandated Services, New York State
245,000 Tuition and fees, Religious Ed. Program
84,000 Emergency maintenance
259,000 Miscellaneous / Donations (see bottom of page)

3,412,000 TOTAL INCOME

EXPENSES

2010

1,849,000
368,000
111,000
158,000
110,000
92,000
13,000
131,000
81,000
5,000
75,000

\$2,993,000

2011

2,042,000 Salaries, pension benefits, payroll taxes, employee
501,000 Insurance (medical / liability), employee
106,000 Church building (flowers, Missalettes, sexton, etc.)
145,000 Personnel and books, Religious Ed. Program
122,000 Maintenance / repairs / contracted services
85,000 Utilities (including assessed water taxes)
11,000 Capital improvements (*not* Bicentennial Campaign)
112,000 Supplies / school office expenses
94,000 Supplies, rectory office and living quarters
6,000 Miscellaneous
79,000 Parish Assessment (*Cathedraticum*)

\$3,303,000 TOTAL EXPENSES

(- 94,000) + \$109,000 NET

Miscellaneous Donations / Fees / Offerings / Gifts include the following:

Religious Education Program fees	Seton School parent support	Bulletin advertisement rebate
Parishioner gifts & estate bequests	Votive lights (candles)	Donations from Parish Groups
<i>Vestment and Vessel Fund</i>	<i>Young Seton Cares</i>	<i>Benevolent Fund</i>