

# St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Shrub Oak, NY

Founded 1963

Pastor's

## ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHURCH

Gathered at Shrub Oak, New York

January - December 2008

Patronal Feast Day, January 25, 2009

Our faith community has experienced Christ's Presence in a very *Seton* way this year; that is, we have continued to "pray for the *light* to see and the *grace* to do!" It has been a very trying year, with economic concerns overwhelming so much of our lives. Although I must report **the overall state of the parish is "fair"**, due to financial concerns (see page 4), nevertheless, we are **thriving** in fervent prayer, fraternal love, enthusiasm for Christian service, and in the consolation of God's Presence.

It is truly inspiring to see so many Setonians supported by the **Word of God** and the celebration of the **Sacraments**. **Educating religiously**--in our superb parochial school, in our Religious Education Program, and in a wide variety of ongoing adult education venues—we continue to mature. **Social justice initiatives and charitable endeavors**, aimed at strengthening individuals and our local community, remain a priority. Principal sacramental statistics follow:

3 Adult Baptism (RCIA)	147 Sacrament of Baptism	60 Sacrament of the Sick
3 Received into the Catholic Church (RCIA)	99 Mass of Christian Burial	18 Sacrament of Matrimony
240 First Reconciliation / First Eucharist	222 Sacrament of Confirmation	

### WE ARE CHURCH

Please go online to [seton-parish.org](http://seton-parish.org), our parish website, and to [setonparish.ning.com](http://setonparish.ning.com), our parish social network, to learn more about our parish, which is made up of the following:

- approximately **4,000 households** (active and inactive), with **156 new households** registered this year
- with an average of **2,665 people participating at the Sunday Eucharist**.

Many good people participate in our parish activities and cannot be served adequately because they are not formally "**registered**" as parishioners. If you have **not** registered yourselves--whether you are a new parishioner, one of the "founders" of our parish, or adult children of longtime parishioners--please visit the rectory so our secretary may add your name to our official parishioner list. **It's vital!** We want to know you better and serve you more attentively.

In 2008, we said **hail and farewell** to several Pastoral Staff members:

Parish secretary, **Ellen Stafford** was replaced by **Mary Ellen Modico**

Youth Minister, **Laura Graeber** was replaced by **Mary Beth Bumbolow and Michael DeNobile** (volunteers)

A weekend priest, **Fr. James Hauver** of Archbishop Stepinac High School, White Plains, was welcomed, and a School custodian, **Eleazar (Elle) Gonzalez**, who substituted for our weekend custodian in the fall.

In **our parochial school**, **Cathleen McCarthy** was assigned as school nurse. Our gifted and loyal teachers "touch the future" in our unique seedbed of education, character formation and the Faith.

345 Seton school students

26 Faculty members

In our **Religious Education program**, we bid farewell to our Middle School Coordinator (CRE), **Lucia Elser**, and hired, **Sara Koshofer** (former RE secretary). Additionally, we hired **Jim Arena and Ivana Gomez**, who split the daunting secretarial duties.

1520 RE students

200 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 seminar, "Safer Spaces," either at Seton or at another parish. **Seton employees**, who work regularly with children must submit a background check and attend a more in-depth seminar, "Protecting God's Children."

## **THE CHURCH IS LOVE IN ACTION**

Graced by a loving God, 2008 was a year of rewarding ministry and exciting community building. Here is a pretty comprehensive (though not exhaustive) list of the activities of a very busy Church:

<b>Participants</b>	<b>"ALL" indicates all members or parishioners</b>	<b>"✓" indicates a new initiative</b>
+++	<b>Bereavement Ministry</b> 150 Quarterly Bereavement Masses (2) for deceased buried at Seton	50 Bereavement group
	300 Annual Children's Memorial Mass for parents and relatives	80 "9-11" Remembrance Mass
+++	✓ <b>Bicentennial Mass</b> for the Archdiocese of New York: 800 No. Westchester-Putnam schools held at Seton	
	150 Westchester-Putnam Vicariate, held at St. Patrick Church, Yorktown	
144	<b>Birthday blessings, monthly</b> , and small gifts distributed at our monthly Children's Mass	
120	<b>Blessing of Animals (pets)</b>	
+++	<b>Blood Drives (2)</b> 134 pints of blood donated for the Hudson Valley Blood Services	
+++	<b>Boy Scouts</b> 346 Popcorn fundraiser 4 Eagle projects 2 Courts of Honor 1 <i>Ad Altare Dei</i> 13 National Scout Ranch trip	
47	"CARE" packages for the troops in war zones, assisted by the Respect Life Committee and God's TYM teenagers	
900	<b>Children's Liturgy of the Word</b> , monthly	
20	<b>Children's Bears (70)</b> collection for Yorktown PD and St. Mary's Church	
20	<b>Christmas Concert</b> , Children's Choir (Treetops and Mohegan Manor) with gifts by Altar and Rosary Society	
+++	<b>Church-state relations (2)</b> , fundraisers sponsored by Religious Education	
	290 Christmas lapel buttons ✓ 740 "Right to Vote" buttons	
75	<b>Communion Dinner</b> , annual, sponsored by the Holy Name Society	
52	<b>Communion Breakfast</b> , sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society	
+++	<b>Cub Scouts</b> 350 <i>Giving Tree</i> , benefitting Westchester Human Development foster care children	10 <i>Parvuli Dei</i> Awards
+++	<b>CYO Basketball</b> 2,000 Raffle 125 Basketball Camp 4 Scholarship (2 boys, 2 girls)	
250	<b>Day of Recollection</b> , Annual, Parish, sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society	
95	"Day of the Sick," Annual Anointing of the Sick Mass	
+++	<b>Devotional booklets, <i>The Word Among Us</i></b> 300 Lent and Advent ✓ 50 Monthly	
45	<b>Dinner Theatre</b> , sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society	
+++	<b>DVDs of Note</b> 100 <i>Champions of Faith</i> 50 <i>Bernadette</i> 50 <i>The Ninth Day</i> 200 <i>Fishers of Men</i>	
ALL	"Feast Day" Weekend, Parish Patroness, all Masses 100 Catholic Schools Week and Open House	
	250 Volunteer Workers Appreciation Dinner 20 Young Volunteer Appreciation Pizza Party	
+++	<b>Girl Scouts</b> 16 <i>I Live My Faith</i> Awards 30 <i>Family of God</i> Awards 10 Silver Awards 200 <i>Dress for Success</i>	
64	<b>Golf Outing</b> , sponsored by the Holy Name Society	
+++	<b>Homebound parishioners visitation</b> 52 Monthly 30 Weekly 71 Christmas by Holy Name Society	
75	✓ <b>Legion of Mary</b> , <i>Acies</i> meeting of area parish groups	
600	<b>Missalette</b> (2008) give-away to parishioners	
1700	<b>Mission, Parish</b> , preached by Passionist Father Paul Fagan, Director, Cardinal Spellman Retreat House	
+++	<b>Nursing Home visitation</b> , Treetops Nursing Home 1600 Eucharist/Masses 40 Halloween with children	
+++	<b>Outreach</b> 5 <i>March for Life</i> 5000 <i>St. Mary's Food Pantry Meals</i> 500 <i>Midnight Run</i> 95 <i>Loose Change</i> for adopted family	
	800 <i>Peekskill Area Pastor's Program</i> 25 <i>Helping Hands Meals</i> 150 <i>United for the Troops</i> 51 <i>Night of Prayer for Life</i>	
+++	✓ <b>Papal Visit to NY</b> 74 Dunwoodie 84 Yankee Stadium 1 St. Patrick's Cathedral 2 Farewell at JFK	
+++	<b>Parent Recognition Days</b> 1500 Mother's Day carnations 1500 Father's Day bookmark holy cards	
120	<b>Pastors, deceased, anniversary Masses:</b> Msgr. A. Nugent (Nov. 27, 1981); Msgr. E. Fogarty (Aug.2, 1996).	
20	<b>Parentcare</b> classes for parents with small children 19 registrants 23 children 70 Bake sale	
+++	✓ <b>Parish Council Committees, new:</b> 8 Buildings and Grounds 6 Development	
+++	<b>Pilgrimages</b> 40 Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Middletown 25 Holy Land (1500 tiny, Bethlehem-made olive wood crosses)	
50	✓ <b>Presentation for adults: <i>Eastern Spirituality</i></b> , sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society	
25	<b>Pumpkin</b> fundraiser by God's TYM / High School teens	
750	<b>Quilt and (✓) afghan, homemade, raffle</b> by the Altar and Rosary Society for Seton Emergency Maintenance Fund	
+++	<b>Religious Education: 96 classes</b> 68 Catechetical Commissioning 80 Catechist Appreciation Dinner	
	360 Pre-Confirmation Masses (7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> gr.) 12 Archdiocesan certificates 150 <i>Masses in Slow Motion</i> for 1 <sup>st</sup> Eucharist	
	180 Retreat, 8 <sup>th</sup> grade 295 Family Retreat, 6 <sup>th</sup> grade 220 RE classes, Saturday	
	25 Religious Education Sunday classes (2 x month), begin with the 8 AM Mass	
+++	✓ <b>Rosaries</b> 700 Parishioner handouts 5 Remembering the Rosary 400 for RE children' (handmade) 1,020 for Missions	

- +++ **Retreats( 2), Annual, Parish** 29 Men's (Holy Name Society) 34 Women's (Altar and Rosary Society)
- +++ **Rite of Initiation for Adults (RCIA), Becoming a Catholic**
  - 2 Rite of Welcome, Catechumens and Candidates for Sacraments (Advent 1) 2 Rite of Sending (Lent 1)
  - 2 Rite of Election (Lent 1), Catechumens, St. Patrick's Cathedral 2 Rite of Continuing Conversion (Lent 2), Candidates for Sacraments
- 15 ✓ **Roundtable**, early Saturday morning discussion group
- 79 **Safer Spaces Seminars** (9) for *all* those who work with children at Seton
- 100 ✓ **Saint Nicholas Day event**, sponsored by the Spirit Committee
- 155 **Seniors' Prom** (senior citizens) sponsored by *God's TYM* / High School teens
- 80 **Seniors' Social** (senior citizens) sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society
- +++ **Seton School** 400 American Girl Show 750 Book Fairs (2) 250 Regional School Principals Meeting 100 Awards Night
  - 40 Confirmation retreat 500 Christmas Fair 146 BJ Fundraiser 350 St. Patrick's Day
  - 41 Graduation retreat 725 Christmas Pageant
- 1016 ✓ **Shamrocks**, crocheted for our school children
- 100 **Simple Suppers**, Lent, in solidarity with the poor, sponsored by Seton Spirit Committee
- 52 ✓ **Social Network**, Parish, [setonparish.ning.com](http://setonparish.ning.com)
- +++ **Sunday Afternoon Movies:** 25 Summertime (5), Classic comedies 30 Lenten (5), *Walking the Bible*
- 1500 **Tag sales** (2), sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society
- 80 **Thanksgiving Day Dinner** for those who were alone on the holiday; served in auditorium & delivered to homes
- 65 **Valentine's Day** chocolate fundraiser by God's TYM / High School teens
- +++ **Presidential Election** 25 Voter registration 1700 Voter guide inserts (5 weeks)
- +++ ✓ **We Are Seton Parish**, weekly bulletin paragraphs to introduce all parish groups to the wider parish
- +++ ✓ **Website maintenance** transferred to supplier of the Seton weekly bulletin [seton-parish.org](http://seton-parish.org)
- +++ **Wedding jubilees** 2 Silver Anniversaries 6 Golden Anniversaries
- 128 **Winter coat collection** for homeless veterans, by AMVETS for Veterans Hospital, Montrose

## **THE CHURCH RELIES ON SACRIFICIAL DONATIONS**

We continue to struggle with supporting our vibrant parish. Please look at the Parish Financial Initiatives insert and the Parish Financial Summary on **page 4**. As you will see, we **ended 2008 year in the red**. If we are to meet our financial responsibilities, our 365-days-a-year ministry requires a monthly offertory collection of **\$135,000**. We will continue to print the total monthly Offertory collection amount, minus charity, in the bulletin. **Nine percent of your overall donations went to charity** (e.g., internal and external through second collections, Seton Benevolent Fund, *Young Seton Cares*, etc.) Additionally, we raised:

- \$ 87,000** **Cardinal's Appeal** (601 gifts)
- \$170,000** **Parish Financial Crisis initiative**, raised in eight weeks (!) using red-bordered envelopes
- \$900,095.34** **Bicentennial Capital Campaign paid pledges**. Total pledged was **\$1,145,809.50**
- (over 3 years) **Completed projects:** kneelers, auditorium roof, rectory windows/ siding, school and church bathrooms, repair of Youth Minister's office, replacement of 2 boilers, removal of 2 oil tanks, and natural gas hookup.
- Remaining projects:** church roof sealing, replacement of church ceiling/lighting, convent roof replacement

☺ Several of our parish events and purchases were partially underwritten by anonymous parishioners. These gifts amount to *thousands of dollars!* We are humbled by the trust placed in the Pastoral Staff!

The pastoral Staff remains committed to keeping our expenses down, and ministering to you and your families in a responsible manner. In these very difficult financial times for all of us, I heartily applaud your generosity and stalwart support of our parish. You are nothing short of amazing! However, I do urge each household to consider increasing your Offertory donations—even by few dollars. **Thank you for your sacrifices!** We have much for which we are proud under God's grace.

**NOTE** Following standard procedure in the sixth year of a pastor's term, **Seton parish is about to be evaluated.** A team of priests, appointed by the Archdiocesan Office of Priest Personnel, will meet with me, the Pastoral Staff and a cross section of parishioners before summertime. Anticipating a lively and frank discussion, I feel more fortunate than ever to "serve God and be merry" as your pastor.

# PARISH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Shrub Oak, NY

## January - December 2008

Mr. Fred Van Riper, Parish accountant / Plant manager

### INCOME

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	
1,033,000	1,094,000	First Collections, Sunday & Holy Day
976,000	926,000	Tuition, parochial school
61,000	72,000	Books / supplies / cafeteria, School
52,000	306,000	Fundraisers, Church, School (includes \$170K Crisis envelopes)
86,000	122,000	Mandated Services, New York State
190,000	223,000	Tuition and fees, Religious Ed. Program
54,000	73,000	Emergency maintenance
<u>167,000</u>	<u>85,000</u>	* Miscellaneous / Donations (see bottom of page)
<b>2,619,000</b>	<b>2,901,000</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>

### EXPENSES

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	
1,793,000	1,804,000	Salaries, pension benefits, payroll taxes, employee
381,000	393,000	Insurance (medical / liability), employee
105,000	92,000	Church building (flowers, Missalettes, sexton, etc.)
160,000	158,000	Personnel and books, Religious Ed. Program
97,000	91,000	Maintenance / repairs / contracted services
109,000	97,000	Utilities (including assessed water taxes)
20,000	14,000	Capital improvements (not Capital Campaign monies)
73,000	77,000	Supplies / school office expenses
62,000	60,000	Supplies, rectory office and living quarters
4,000	3,000	Miscellaneous
<u>76,000</u>	<u>146,000</u>	Parish Assessment ( <i>Cathedraticum</i> )
		(the 2008 figure includes unpaid 2006 and 2007 bills)
<b>2,880,000</b>	<b>2,935,000</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>
<b>(-261,000)</b>	<b>(-34,000)</b>	<b>NET</b>

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

Religious Education Program	Seton School parent donations	Bulletin advertisement rebate
Parishioner gifts & estate bequests	<i>Benevolent Fund</i>	Parish Group donations
<i>Vestment and Vessel Fund</i>	<i>Young Seton Cares</i>	Votive candles