

# St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

Founded 1963

Pastor's

## ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHURCH

Gathered at Shrub Oak, New York

January - December 2007

Patronal Feast Day, January 27, 2008

Dear parishioners and friends of Seton parish, a formal accounting of the parish stewardship is essential for maintaining a healthy spiritual course. As my three predecessors did for over forty-four years, I now have the duty to report **the overall state of the parish is fair—due in large measure to a financial deficit.** (See page 4.) We shall work diligently to meet that challenge.

Every day we see God acting in love right in our midst, and it's positively contagious. We depend on the support of the **Word of God** and the celebration of the **Sacraments** to live fully in His presence. **Educating religiously**--in our superb school, in our Religious Education Program, and in a wide variety of ongoing adult education venues—we have been enthusiastic in bringing Gospel values into our homes and into the public square. Our commitment to **social justice** and **strengthening our faith community** remains a priority, and so we have prayed, laughed, cried, worked hard, socialized, corrected and encouraged each other, and made the works of mercy real.

1	Adult Baptism (RCIA)	140	Sacrament of Baptism	70	Sacrament of the Sick
5	Received into the Catholic Church (RCIA)	213	Sacrament of Confirmation	14	Sacrament of Matrimony
245	First Reconciliation / First Eucharist	84	Mass of Christian Burial		

### WE ARE THE CHURCH

Seton parish tries mightily to be generous and highly attentive to all the needs of a growing parish. For the record, our parish is composed of approximately 4,000 **households**, with **2,993 people participating at Sunday Eucharist**. **170 new parishioners** were registered last year.

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 as parishioners--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 2007, we concluded the **40<sup>th</sup> anniversary** celebrations of our parish school. In November, Cardinal Egan presented our own **Sr. Gabriel Miriam, SC** with the "**Seton Compassionate Educator**" award at the Annual Teachers Conference at Kennedy Catholic. Our faculty jumped to their feet and applauded enthusiastically, in recognition of their indomitable leader of 40 years! School stats follow:

25	Seton School faculty	392	Seton school students
2	Faculty losses: <b>Marguerite Kerrigan and Donna McMahon</b>		
2	Faculty gains: <b>Ginny Oppsedisano and Christine Wedvik</b>		

After 4 creative years, we said farewell to our DRE, **Ms. M. Elizabeth Rush**, and we hired 2 RE Coordinators, **Mrs. Lucia Elser** (Middle School) and **Mrs. Laura Gleeson** (Elementary School); a secretary, **Mrs. Sara Koshofer**; and a registrar, **Mrs. Martina Norris**. RE program stats follow:

184	Catechists, aides, and babysitters	1,589	RE students
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We are, of course, rigorously committed to providing the **safest environment possible for our children** to learn and interact with one another. Before any volunteer is allowed to work regularly with any children in our parish, he or she must submit to a background check by the Archdiocese of New York, and attend a Safer Spaces seminar.

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

Graced by a loving God, 2007 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:

### **Participants**

"ALL" indicates all parishioners    "☐" indicates a new initiative

- 75 Anointing of the Sick Mass (Annual), in solidarity with the Pope's own *World Day of the Sick*
- 200 ☐ Benefit Concert (RIP, Jay Williams) for new choir chairs, by Lana Kollath, Paramount Center, Peekskill
- Bereavement Initiatives
  - 150 Bereavement Masses (2), deceased parishioners    8 ☐ Bereavement group
  - 300 Children's Memorial Mass for parents    75 9-11 Remembrance Mass, relatives/friends
- ☐ Bicentennial Celebration, Archdioceses of New York    70 Official history books    250 Vicariate Mass
- 180 Birthday blessings and small gifts distributed at our monthly Children's Mass
- 30 Blessing of Animals (Pets), *Gathering of the Creatures' Choir* on our East Main Street front lawn
- 141 Blood Drives (2), 118 pints of blood donated for the Hudson Valley Blood Services
- Boy Scouts    229 Popcorn fundraiser    ALL Boy Scout Eagle projects (4)    50 ☐ New flagpole (Eagle project)
- 98 ☐ Bunko Game and Dessert Night sponsored by Seton Spirit Committee
- 62 ☐ "CARE" packages for the troops in war zones, sponsored by the Respect Life Committee and God's TYM
- 360 *Children's Liturgy of the Word*, monthly
- 75 ☐ Children's "Books and Bears" collection for Westchester Children's Hospital
- 25 Choir, Children's, performed Christmas carols at Treetops Nursing Home
- 600 ☐ Christmas buttons (fundraiser): "It's OK, Wish Me a Merry Christmas," sponsored by Rel. Education
- 91 Communion Dinner, annual, sponsored by the Holy Name Society
- 42 Communion Breakfast, sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society
- Cub Scouts    350 *Giving Tree*, benefitting Westchester Human Development foster care children    7 *Parvuli Dei* Awards
- 100 CYO basketball players and coaches blessing
- 150 ☐ Day of Recollection, Parish, sponsored Altar and Rosary Society
- 300 Devotional booklets/leaflets, Lent and Advent: *The Word Among Us; How Shall I Fast; It is Finished*
- ALL Feast Day Weekend Masses, Parish Patroness, the last weekend of January
  - 253 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner    25 Young Volunteer Appreciation Pizza Party
  - 100 Catholic Schools Week and Open House
- Girl Scouts    8 *I Live My Faith* Awards    5 Gold Awards    71 Home bound Christmas gifts
- 74 Golf Outing, sponsored by the Holy Name Society
- Homebound parishioners visitation    52 Monthly    30 Weekly    71 Christmas by Holy Name Society
- 700 Mission, Parish, preached by Fr. Freund, CSSR, Mt. St. Alphonsus Retreat House, Esopus
- 60 Nursing Home visitation for Eucharist and Masses (3 monthly)
- Outreach, Social Justice
  - 400 *Midnight Run [Breakfast Run, 30]*    4000 *St. Mary's Food Pantry*    7 *March for Life*, Washington
  - 840 *Peekskill Area Pastor's Program*    9 *Walk for Life*, Mount Kisco    75 *Night of Prayer*, Lady Chapel
- 120 Pastors, deceased, anniversary Masses: Msgr. Nugent (d. Nov. 1981), and Msgr. Fogarty (d. Aug. 1996).
- 8 ☐ Parentcare classes for parents with small children
- Pilgrimages    30 Annual, Parish, Fatima, Lourdes and French holy sites; also, Normandy beaches
- 75 *Presentations: the Divine Mercy Devotion and Alzheimer's Disease* sponsored by Altar & Rosary Society
- 1200 Quilt, homemade, raffle by the Altar and Rosary Society for Seton Emergency Maintenance Fund
- Religious Education
  - 95 Catechetical Sunday Commissioning    70 Catechist Appreciation Dinner
  - 4 Pre-Confirmation Masses (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders)    150 *Masses in Slow Motion* for 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist children
  - 90% Religious Education classes (Monday through Friday) extended 30 minutes *per* Cardinal Egan directive
  - 225 Religious Education Sunday classes (2 x month) begins with the 8 AM Mass (2nd year).
- Retreats, Annual, Parish    30 Men's by the Holy Name Society    32 Women's by the Altar and Rosary Society
  - 1500 Mother's Day carnations, and Father's Day bookmarks
- Rite of Initiation for Adults (RCIA)
  - 3 Rite of Acceptance into the Catechumenate and Rite of Welcome (Advent 1)
  - 3 Rite of Sending (Lent 1)    1 Rite of Election, Catechumens, St. Patrick's Cathedral (Lent 1)
  - 7 Rite of Continuing Conversion, Candidates for the Sacraments (Lent 2)

- 58 **Safer Spaces seminars** (9) for *all* those who work with children; updated rosters sent to the Archdiocese
- 189 **Seniors' Prom** for senior citizens, sponsored by *God's TYM* High School teens
- **Seton School**
- |     |  |     |   |     |                  |     |                       |
|-----|--|-----|---|-----|------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| 550 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>American Girl Show</b>   | 450 | <b>Flag Day parade</b>  | 500 | <b>Book Fair</b> | 500 | <b>Christmas Fair</b> |
| 42  | <b>Graduation retreat</b>  | 250 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Regional Catholic School Principals Meeting</b> |     |                  |     |                       |
| 500 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass</b> , Children's Mass, Alumni Mass/reception, monthly project |     |   |     |                  |     |                       |
| 200 | <b>Awards Night</b> , inaugurating the Golden "S" (for Seton) Award  | 40  | <b>Confirmation retreat</b>   |     |                  |     |                       |
- 90 **Simple Suppers** (2), Lent, in solidarity with the poor sponsored by Seton Spirit Committee and Legion of Mary
- 50 **Senior Social** for Senior Citizens, sponsored by Altar and Rosary Society
- 800  **Tag sales** (2), sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society  
Fr. Rajan's home diocesan poor and **Seton Emergency Maintenance Fund**
- 110 **Thanksgiving Day Dinner** for those who were alone on the holiday; served in auditorium & delivered to homes
- 90  **Tour of our original church building**, St. George, Mohegan Lake
- 45 **Vacation Bible Week** for young children
- 200 **Valentine Chocolate**, fundraiser, (God's TYM)
- 300  **Vocation film**, "Fishers of Men," screening for Grades 5-8, Seton School and Religious Ed. *Confirmandi*
- 12 **Wedding anniversary jubilees**: Silver (2); Golden (10)
- 45 **Winter coat collection** for homeless veterans, Veterans Hospital, Montrose
- 11  **Women's Bible Study** (9-week course)
- 80  **Youth Pumpkin fundraiser** (God's TYM)

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

Please review the **2007 Parish Financial Summary on page 4**. As you will see, we **ended the year in the red**, due mainly to **increases in salaries, insurance costs, medical benefits, and the Archdiocesan parish assessment (*Cathedraticum*)**. If we are to meet our financial responsibilities, our 365-days-a-year ministry now requires a monthly offertory collection of approximately **\$135,000**. (A big number!) We will continue to print the total monthly Offertory collection amount, minus charity, in the bulletin. We hope the **newly designed weekly envelopes** help you to see exactly where your donations go. **7% of our donations did go to charity.**

664 Cardinal's Appeal gifts (**\$125,000**: met our goal) 652 Capital Campaign (CC) gifts (**\$698,807.13** of \$1,138,329) We very much appreciate your making good on your generous pledges. The CC bank account has always been kept separate from our operating account. We've seen results:

**Completed CC projects:** kneelers, auditorium roof, rectory windows and siding, school and church bathrooms.

**Upcoming CC project:** replacement of boilers, removal of oil tanks, and natural gas hookup.

Fr. John La Farge **Knights of Columbus** Council surprised us with a \$5,000 donation **in March!**

The Archdiocese Office for Parish Finance performed a **routine, one-day, Operational Review** on June 1st, and everything was found to be in compliance. We received **special acknowledgement for all the safeguards we place on handling of parish money**. We all remain 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 increase your **Offertory donations—even by a dollar or two.** I assure you, the Finance Council and I will be pro active in attacking the deficit.

## **WE ARE THE CHURCH**

On the Seton family crest appears a motto, ***Hazard yet forward!*** Can the *Greatest Parish in the World*, whom the *Charity of Christ Compels*, do otherwise in faith? I think not. More importantly, I believe, the Lord thinks not. How can I be anything but humbled to be at your side, and God's?

# PARISH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Shrub Oak, NY

## January - December 2007

Mr. Fred Van Riper, Parish accountant / Plant manager

### INCOME in thousands

#### 2006    2007

997	1033	Sunday and Holy Day collections (excluding all charity)
933	976	Parochial school tuition
82	61	Books / supplies / cafeteria
58	52	School fundraisers
91	86	New York State Mandated Services
197	190	Religious Education tuition and fees
53	54	Emergency maintenance
<u>188</u>	167	Miscellaneous / Donations*
<b>2,599</b>	<b>2619</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>

### EXPENSES in thousands

#### 2006    2007

1631	1793	Salaries, pension benefits, payroll taxes
339	381	Insurance (medical / liability)
75	105	Ordinary church expenses
139	160	Religious Education personnel and books
86	97	Maintenance / repairs / contracted services
100	109	Utilities (including assessed water taxes)
62	20	Capital / internal improvements
76	73	School supplies / office expenses
47	62	Church / rectory expenses
16	76	<i>Cathedraticum</i> (Archdiocesan Parish Assessment)
<u>2</u>	4	Miscellaneous (e.g., Rel. Ed. Registrar and <i>Parent care</i> stipends)
<b>2573</b>	<b>2880</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>
<b>+ 26</b>	<b>- 261</b>	<b>NET</b>

\* Seton Religious Education Program, Seton School, *Young Seton Cares* (children's envelopes), and *Seton Benevolent Fund*