



DIOCESE OF WORCESTER ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Witnessing to the Good News in Worcester County



Fostering the Domestic Church

With the introduction of a new diocesan marriage policy and statewide education initiative called *The Future Depends on Love*, the **Office of Marriage and Family** helped facilitators to assist engaged couples prepare for the sacrament of marriage with a better understanding of its commitment and joys. Lifelong learning is part of our mission as Church and the **Office of Religious Education** assisted adults in their own faith formation with local courses, online learning programs in conjunction with the University of Dayton, and our continuing partnership with Anna Maria College for degreed programs in pastoral ministries. Catechists, those who provide more formal instruction in our faith tradition in parish programs,

received ongoing training and support from the department's staff and the Religious Education Bookstore and Resource Center.

Youth Ministry reached out to the young people of our diocese with social and pastoral programs to encourage young people to grow in wisdom, in stature, and in grace before God and God's people. Along with retreats at Oakhurst Retreat and Conference Center and socials in various settings, intra-parish sports programs helped our young people experience the relationship of fun and responsibility as team players in a larger community.

Our parochial and diocesan Catholic schools utilized the administrative resources of the **Catholic Schools**

Office to provide direction and support, set standards, and provide ongoing educational and religious formation of our teachers, administrators and student bodies.

The Catholic Church is present to families in so many ways throughout a lifelong journey. College students maintained ties to the Catholic Church through **Campus Ministry**. When taken ill, **Hospital Ministry** chaplains brought comfort and hope to patients on the road to recovery as well as those facing their final days of life. And, for family members faced with preparing a place of final repose for their loved ones, the **St. John Cemetery System** offered planning and perpetual care in 13 cemeteries around Worcester County.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS GOOD STEWARDS: SHARING OUR BLESSINGS



My brothers and sisters in Christ,

Taking to heart our responsibility to be good stewards of the gifts of parishioners throughout the Diocese of Worcester, each year we provide a complete report of our most recent audit for our Central Administration, including the Catholic schools system. At this time, I present our fiscal year end report for September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009.

Despite the significant economic challenges of the past year-and-a-half the Annual Partners in Charity Appeal raised \$4,822,180, the second highest amount ever. This would not have been possible without the extraordinary generosity of our priests and people.

For the most part, our Diocesan departments and agencies were able to operate with balanced budgets last year. The Diocesan Expansion Fund oversaw a gain of \$726,345. Unfortunately, like many others, we experienced unrealized losses in our master investment portfolio in the amount of \$1,056,759. Thus, our operating loss was 1,091,127. This was largely the result of unrealized losses in investments. For the last two quarters of the fiscal year, however, we were able to show considerable gains. Our diversified portfolio continues to help us.

The rising costs of caring for more than 60 retired diocesan priests continues to challenge us. Our retirement programs for clergy were underfunded last year by \$1,368,126. This amount would have been significantly greater without a \$920,000 allocation from the Partners in Charity Appeal. The largest subsidy made from Partners in Charity is for our retired priests.

Serving Communities of Faith

Parish and priestly life is supported through a variety of diocesan ministries and agencies. Through the ongoing efforts of the **Office for Divine Worship**, liturgical ministers such as lectors and musicians were trained and diocesan celebrations planned and executed with special care. In order that the call to priestly life be heard, the **Office for Vocations** provided the support needed to those who are contemplating or already pursuing diocesan priesthood in our diocese. Support for active and retired priests was provided by the **Office of Ongoing Priestly Formation** and the **Minister to Priests**. Retired priests received regular, qualified medical support through the **Retired Priests Ministry** to monitor their overall wellbeing. The **Diaconate Office** guided the formation of men to the diaconate while supporting those who serve our worshipping communities as deacons.

Many people serve our parishes and institutions as vowed religious. The **Vicar for Religious** provided pastoral care for 603 men and women living the consecrated life in the Diocese of Worcester, and served as a liaison between their

St. John's Cemetery System, which oversees numerous cemeteries throughout the Diocese, continues to reduce its operational deficit. With declining enrollments and increasing costs our Catholic schools will continue to experience significant financial challenges.

Our Diocesan Finance Office conducted special meetings this past October at which time the overall fiscal challenges of the Diocese were reported. I have also asked that all our pastors meet regularly with their parish finance councils and thoroughly disclose their own parish finances to their respective parishioners.

For 2010 we have planned a diocesan-wide increased offertory campaign to enable all our parishes to better address their fiscal challenges. It is our hope that this campaign, *Sharing Our Blessings*, will increase parish revenues by 25%.

As is well known, the Diocese inaugurated a pastoral planning process some years ago. Several parishes have been merged with others and that process will continue in the years ahead as we continue to review and strengthen parish life. The most significant reason for pastoral planning is to renew our parishes spiritually. The decision to merge or close parishes, however, helps us to better conserve our resources.

I am especially grateful for the generosity of all our parishioners and benefactors, without whom our Diocese could not flourish. I am confident that the Lord will always provide for us. I look to your continued good will and support as we join our efforts to provide for all of God's people in our Diocese and beyond.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Robert J. McManus". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, S.T.D.
Bishop of Worcester

communities and the **Office of the Bishop**.

The Bishop of Worcester is the moral authority of the local Church and principal pastor of all the faithful in his diocese. In conjunction with his administration, he continued to provide the strategic direction to respond to the charitable, pastoral, and educational demands placed each day upon the Catholic Church in Worcester County. As the ordinary of the Diocese, the Bishop also represented our local Church in regional, national and international forums, including the Massachusetts Catholic Conference and the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Bishop's Office is assisted daily by the **Chancellor's Office** which includes the **Building Commission** overseeing all construction and renovation projects. The Bishop is also assisted by the **Vice Chancellor for Operations** and the **Office of Communications**. The **Office for Healing and Prevention** responded to victims of abuse with qualified care and pastoral concern. The **Diocesan Pastoral Planning Committee** was instrumental in assisting the bishop to assess and deliberate on key parish vitality in our diocese.

Fundraising and fiscal management are critical aspects of

New Evangelization Turns to Technology

The Diocese of Worcester moved to the Internet with streaming video and live Webcasts to reach out to the homebound as well as those who are revisiting their faith practices. Our local TV Ministry is always looking for new ways to follow the Holy Father's call to spread the Good News using today's technology.



On the Road to a Joy-Filled Marriage

"My fiancé Gil and I want to thank you and the facilitators so much for putting together such a wonderful [marriage prep] program. It was an amazing, uplifting, and eye opening class. We both left with a renewed love for each other and a stronger affirmation of our desire to enter the covenant of marriage. It strengthened our faith in God and provided a clear and wonderful understanding of His plan for our marriage. We feel so blessed to have had that experience, it was absolutely wonderful. Thank you again!"

— Amy Mancini and Gil Gilbert



Becoming Good Stewards

Promoting good practices in stewardship continued in our diocese in many parishes last year, such as at St. Anthony of Padua in Dudley. Ministry fairs, weekly reminders, and other efforts raised the consciousness of stewardship in the parish as seen in volunteerism, active participation and financial support.

the stewardship of the Church. The **Development Office** oversaw the successful *Partners in Charity* campaign. The **Office for Stewardship** continued to build recognition for parish stewardship as a faith-filled commitment to our mission as parish communities. The **Office of Fiscal Affairs** supported the financial operations of our parishes, departments, and allied institutions.

In an effort to keep Catholics aware of what is happening, The **Catholic Free Press** kept the community informed of local, regional, national, and international news and issues. That role was augmented by **TV Ministry** which reached out through cable TV and Web-based programming as well as issue-specific video productions.

Witnessing to the World

As a universal Church, we recognize that the beauty of the communities in which we live is in great part a reflection of their ethnic diversity. We are communities of constant change, with newcomers arriving in our country and facing evolving needs over time.

Individual Apostolates dedicated to

the African, Brazilian, Hispanic and Vietnamese communities are dedicated to pastoral care and social outreach. This pastoral care presented an opportunity to proclaim, in word and in deed, a gospel of welcome so that the faithful from different cultures found a spiritual home in the Diocese of Worcester.

In ongoing support for the dignity of all people, the **Respect Life Office** was a voice for justice for the unborn, the terminally ill, and the aging in our midst. Through the efforts of **Project Rachel**, assistance was provided to post-abortive women and men to move towards reconciliation with themselves, their unborn child, their family, their Church, and their God in a caring, compassionate and hopeful context.

Charitable work is integral to the mission of the Church. Much of that work was accomplished through collaboration with other groups through Partners in Charity grants to **Catholic Charities** of the Diocese of Worcester, McAuley Nazareth Home for Boys, and Pernet Family Health Services as together we supported the dignity of all our brothers and sisters, regardless of race, creed, or economic need.

Ministering to those who are often forgotten included **Prison Ministry** to those who have lost their freedom and privileges in society, reminding them of the presence of God's grace to help them turn their lives around. And, in our sister Diocese of Les Cayes, Haiti, the work of the **Haitian Apostolate** continued to bring much needed corporal, educational, and spiritual support as we witnessed to the mission of the Church abroad as well as at home. ♦

Dedicated to Life-Long Learning

Carole LeBlanc was a volunteer catechist in her parish and worked as an aide in the Grafton public schools. She began courses for provisional catechist certification in March 2008. Thanks to the opportunity to take qualified courses online through the University of Dayton and the Office of Religious Education, she completed all the requirements to be a certified Administrator of Religious Education at St. Philip, Grafton.



Annual Report on Operating Activities FY2009

Partners in Charity

Revenue Sources	
Donations	\$4,893,101
Uncollected Pledges	208,491
Available Funds for Use	4,684,610

Use of Funds

Programs	
African Ministry	\$28,099
Campus Ministry	91,220
Catholic Charities	400,000
Central Catholic Schools	239,331
Development	310,960
St. John Cemetery System	29,793
Office of Marriage and Family	37,880
Grant-In-Aid	350,000
Haitian Apostolate	62,547
Hispanic Ministry	165,395
McAuley Nazareth Home	33,600
Ctrl. Catholic Schools Assessment Subsidy	45,325
Office of Divine Worship	74,585
Office of Ongoing Priestly Formation	28,850
Minister to Priests	44,455
Advance Studies for Clergy & Laity	133,780
Permanent Diaconate Program	69,872
Pernet Family Health	30,000
Priests' Retirement Fund	920,000
Religious Education	278,888
Respect Life Office	50,366
Retired Priests Ministry	54,015
Seminarian Education	421,269
Subsidy to St. Paul Cathedral	132,776
Superintendent of Schools	128,175
Vocations & House of Studies	326,491
Youth Ministry	98,043
Administration	101,726
Total Use of Partners in Charity Funds:	\$4,687,441
Partners in Charity Expenditures Over Funding:	(\$2,831)

Central Administration

Revenue Sources	
Cathedralicum	\$2,221,829
Insurance Program	1,070,540
Realized Investment Income	107,379
Unrealized Investment Loss	(682,244)
Other Income	300,115
Bequests	0
Women's Conference	2,803
	\$3,020,422

Use of Funds

Bishop's Office	\$185,923
Bishop's Residence	104,417
Building Commission	90,332
Chancellor's Office	103,823
Communications	171,500
Computer Services	15,566
Donations and Memberships	190,249

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(Central Admin. Use of Funds continued)

Fiscal Affairs Office	362,719
Interest on Indebtedness	1,339,941
Legal Services	15,418
Office of Healing and Prevention	125,630
Pastoral Planning	13,436
Presbyteral Council	2,639
Priests' Financial Assistance	409,320
Reserve for Bad Debt	200,000
Miscellaneous Expenses	7,852
Therapeutic Assistance	43,457
Tribunal	123,795
Vicar for Religious	55,108
Women's Commission	2,750
Year of St. Paul	18,223
Total Departmental Expenses	3,582,098
Depreciation	103,474
Central Administration Expenses Over Revenue	(\$665,150)

Central Catholic Schools

Revenue Sources	
Tuition	\$13,538,412
Fund Raising & Non-Educational	1,204,412
Bookstore Income	180,850
Parish Assessment	151,550
Other Income	101,678
	\$15,176,902
Expenditures	
Educational Expenses	\$14,351,786
Fundraising & Non-Educational	848,512
	\$15,200,298

Central Catholic Schools Operations	(23,396)
Other:	
Partners in Charity Subsidy	239,331*
Wind Turbine Donations and Grants	490,816
Plant Fund Loan Forgiveness	195,000
Depreciation	(329,283)
Interest on DEF Loan	(185,768)
Bond Interest Rate Swap Obligation	(25,763)
Net Change in Assets	\$360,937

St. John Cemetery System

Revenue Sources	
Revenues from Cemetery Operations	\$1,151,124
Release of Restricted Funds	269,612
	\$1,420,736
Expenditures	
Excess Expenditures	\$1,450,529
	(29,793)
Partners in Charity Funding	29,793*
	-0-

Priest Retirement

Revenue Sources	
Partners in Charity	\$920,000*
Parish Assessments	805,733
Investment Income	82,063
Donations	73,619
	\$1,881,415

Expenditures

Support for Retired Priests	\$2,097,567
Nursing Home/Assisted Living	528,998
	\$2,626,565

Unrealized Loss on Investments (622,976)

Expenses over Revenue (\$1,368,126)

Diocesan Expansion Fund

Revenue Sources	
Investment Income	\$1,298,525
Interest on Loans	2,532,887
	\$3,831,412

Expenditures

Interest on Savings Accounts	\$2,686,386
Bad Debt Expense	488,025
Administration	179,117
	\$3,353,528
Unrealized Gain on Investments	248,461

Revenue over Expenses \$726,345

Catholic Free Press

Revenue Sources	
Parish Quota Subscriptions, Net	\$299,493
Direct Subscriptions	17,757
Advertising	204,915
Print Shop	74,591
Miscellaneous Sales	1,572
	598,328
Expenditures	
Newspaper	609,063
Print Shop	68,154
	\$677,217

Expenses over Revenue (\$78,889)

Restricted Funds

Released	
Forward in Faith	\$687,940
Endowment & Annuities	539,388
Donor Restricted Funds	310,006
	\$1,537,334

Expended

Forward in Faith	\$687,940
Endowment & Annuity Commitments	539,388
Use of Designated Donations	63,413
Donor Restricted Support to Ministries	310,006
	\$1,600,747
Change in Designated Funds	(\$63,413)

* Included in Partners in Charity Detail of Use.



DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

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To learn more visit our website for a complete report: worcesterdiocese.org