

Saint Theresa Parish

Annual Stewardship Report

Fiscal Year 2010-2011

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

God is so good to us – both as individuals and as a Parish Community.

Two recent instances (that I am convinced are directly connected to the efficacy of this community's prayers and God's reward for those prayers) are the medically-inexplicable progress in the healing of one of our young school students who experienced traumatic brain injury as a result of a gunshot wound, and the amazing recovery of our bronze Welcoming Christ statue – undamaged – after having been stolen and missing for several days. God is unmistakably involved in both of these situations – the doctors held little hope for any significant healing of the injured boy's brain functions; the police and our insurers told us that there was very little chance of the statue's recovery. But with God, all things are possible.

As I present to our parishioners the St. Theresa Parish Annual Stewardship Report for the past fiscal year (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011), I am once again reminded that the goodness and providence of God is woven throughout our parish community. In my spirit of accountability as your Pastor, it is once again my pleasure to offer you an overview of our parish financial stewardship as well as some significant sacramental and ministerial statistics for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2011.

It was an exciting fiscal year for us on a number of different levels. Our Parish Pastoral Council embarked on and completed a comprehensive five-year strategic plan to help lead us into the future, growing in faith, serving with hope, Christ-centered in love. Members of the Council are now working with parish staff to set out concrete ways to achieve the goals of the plan – you will be hearing more about all of this in the near future. Thanks to your support, we were able to offer the competent and dedicated members of our parish staff a modest raise, according to the Diocesan salary scale, following a few years of frozen salaries. Ministries such as Youth Evangelization, Religious Education and Adult Faith Formation were enhanced and expanded. As a result of far-sighted parishioners who made bequests to St. Theresa specifically for the designated purpose of renovating our 1975 church building, we could replace the deteriorating pews, flooring, rest rooms and even re-configure the church to include a center aisle (much to the delight of brides-to-be!). In addition – once again, as a result of your support, we were able to assist some other parishes and agencies of our Diocese that were especially hard-hit economically.

I now ask for your continued financial support of the ministries, programs and outreach of St. Theresa Parish...as well as your participation in these endeavors. The past generosity of our benefactors and parishioners have made – and continue to make – St. Theresa a beacon of hope to Catholics and non-Catholics alike. We have been able to maintain and improve our facilities, provide for the needs of our parishioners and reach out to those in need. Your support makes this possible. Please take the time to read through this Report and, if you have questions, further detail is always available to you. Just phone the Parish Office. Know that I – and the other men and women of our parish staff – are here to serve you as we grow together in our journey of discipleship.

God is so good.

Blessings and peace in Jesus Christ,

Rev. Charles G. Kieffer, V.F.
Pastor

*Growing in Faith, Serving with Hope, Christ-centered in Love...
We are the Roman Catholic Community of St. Theresa Parish*

Saint Theresa Parish
Fiscal Year July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

Financial Highlights:

Sunday Collection (“tithe/plate”) Income: Thanks to the generosity of the St. Theresa Parish community our plate income has essentially remained steady over the last year in spite of challenging economic times. We continue to work to build all aspects of stewardship and invite increased attendance by offering a variety of ministries and services. Blessed with a competent staff and an involved Parish Finance Council that have helped us to effectively manage our budget and tightly control expenses, we were able to complete the fiscal year not only with sufficient income to meet our expenses, but we were also able to augment designated funds set aside for needed capital improvements for the church building. St. Theresa Parish continues to operate with no outstanding debt.

Parish Outreach: One of the signs of a healthy Christian community is that the community reaches beyond its own borders, in response to the needs of our brothers and sisters who are not necessarily parishioners of St. Theresa. It pleases me to share with you that our community has continued to be generous and responsive to the needs of others. Parishioners contributed \$201,365 to the 2011 Diocesan Charity and Development Appeal; and \$47,006 to the various special collections throughout the year. An additional \$59,975 was entrusted to our parish St. Vincent de Paul Conference in order to provide food, rent and other assistance to the needy in our area. The St. Vincent de Paul Conference volunteers contributed over 4,547 hours of service, made 1,220 home visits and served over 3,212 people in need.

Additionally, St. Theresa assisted parishes, agencies and ministries with expenses: for instance, at St. Mark Parish, St. Philip the Deacon Parish, and St. Louis the King Parish (assistance was given for expenses as diverse as a replacement gas main from the street, air conditioner chiller and ministry operational costs); we also helped underwrite the *Diocesan Honor Your Mother* event (the Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration downtown) as well as the Catholic Community Foundation’s Crozier Dinner. Financial gifts were made as well to the Foundation for Senior Living and used pews from the church were distributed to various missions on the Native American reservations.

Capital Improvements: Highlights in Fiscal Year 2010-11 include the following capital improvements and acquisitions: in the church, the circa-1975 pews and kneelers were replaced, porcelain floor tile was laid in place of the 19 year-old carpet and rest rooms were renovated. Retractable projectors and screens were added to the church (church renovations were funded largely through gifts and bequests given specifically for this purpose). A new projector was permanently mounted in Fr. Feeney Hall, the Youth Room was renovated for Youth Evangelization activities, the first floor conference room in the convent received new exterior windows and doors, parking areas were re-surfaced/re-stripped and a hydraulic scaffolding lift and a new electric utility vehicle (maintenance cart) were acquired.

St. Theresa Perpetual Fund: Our parish endowment fund, established to underwrite educational and spiritual growth programs in our parish, continued to grow. At fiscal year end, the fund (on deposit with the Catholic Community Foundation and in Diocesan savings) totaled \$1,811,594. Capital gains on the corpus of the Fund were \$299,125. Contributions received during the fiscal year were \$86,896 and \$72,500 was awarded in grants. These grants included: support to our parish Religious Education, Life Teen and Junior High Edge programs, Adult Faith Formation, the RCIA program and 4-year scholarships to eighth-graders in our parish who are attending a Catholic High School.

St. Theresa Catholic School: In the 10-11 academic year, 552 preschool and elementary students were enrolled in St. Theresa Catholic School. As school-related expenses (largely salaries and benefits) grow, we look toward building enrollment to our capacity of over 600 students by marketing the excellent academics, programs and environment to new families and in new areas of the Valley. Arizona Tuition Tax Credit scholarship funding through designation of income tax to CTODP for the benefit of St. Theresa students was \$235,687 this year.

Vision 2000 Update: St. Theresa Catholic School continued with the research and planning for the final *Vision 2000* project: the building of the new School Early Childhood Center on the west side of our campus in addition to some other needed campus renovations. Funds that have been raised for this project are retained in an interest-bearing, restricted (designated) savings account.

St. Theresa Catholic School Endowment Fund: Our School Endowment Fund completed this fiscal year-end with \$333,990 on deposit with the Catholic Community Foundation. The Crolley sub-fund distributed \$9,352 in grants to cover the annual cost of tuition for two St. Theresa Catholic School students.

Parish Statistics
Fiscal Year July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

Parish Membership:

2723 Families (households)
7382 Individuals

Parish/School Staff (non-volunteer):

60 Part-time
42 Full-time

Sacramental Life:

45 Baptisms
142 First Eucharist
132 Confirmations
28 RCIA/OCIA
9 Marriages/Marriage Prep.
1 Ordained to Priesthood
2302 Communion to the Sick
179 Anointing of the Sick
45 Funerals