

Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007

Dear Friends,

The Finance Committee is pleased to present our financial results for 2007. The format of the report is the same as last year's, and we hope that it is easy to understand. The report is also available on our web site, www.westfieldnj.com/sthelens/.

As you can see in the report, we were able to show a surplus of \$276, 464, which will allow us to set aside some "rainy day" funds. With your generosity, our average weekly collections increased from \$17,153 to \$19,758. With your support, and the efforts of many volunteers, our parishioners benefited from more than 60 programs and ministries. Thank you for your continuing support!

We continued to face significant challenges in 2006-2007. We pared costs wherever possible; however, many of our costs are not discretionary, such as insurance, medical, fuel and electricity. Other financial challenges included supporting Diocesan programs, as well as our own Holy Trinity School. Our devoted staff members received an increase of 3%, which was only the second increase in recent years. We all appreciate their service and we are sure you will agree that equitable recognition of their efforts is appropriate.

In 2006 we offered the option of making your weekly offering through Electronic Funds Transfer, with direct debit to your checking/savings account or credit card, to assist your budgeting efforts at home. We are happy to report that 119 families have chosen to participate in the program so far. If you have not already enrolled, we urge you to consider doing so. Information is available on the parish web site. Remember that to record your offering with the parish, you must use your envelopes or the EFT.

Thank you all for your Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure – that is what makes the Parish Community of St. Helen so vibrant! Your generous financial support continues to be vital to our success. Please accept our appreciation for your contributions.

Sincerely,

St. Helen's Finance Committee

Msgr. Bill Harms
Meri-Ellen Cain
Timothy Doyle
Deirdre Gelinne
Michael Guarnuccio
John O'Brien
Ellen Scott