

Church of St. John the Evangelist

5751 LOCUST AVENUE
CARMICHAEL, CALIFORNIA 95608
(916) 483-8454

August 30, 2015

Peace and blessings to you, my brothers and sisters.

You have no doubt heard this saying or something similar: "If I stand tall, I'm standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before us." I sense that I am standing tall, having been appointed Pastor of this large and active suburban parish of St. John the Evangelist in Carmichael. When I walk in and among the dozen or so buildings on this ten-acre plot, I am struck by the fact that everything here is the result of the hard work "of those who have gone before us."

I think of our founding pastor Fr. James Kenny, and the subsequent pastors Fr. Declan O'Sullivan, Fr. John Lagomarsino, Fr. Patrick Lee, and Fr. Thomas Bland. Yet I know that each of these "tall men" stood on the shoulders of the many, many, many faithful parishioners who have supported St. John the Evangelist Parish and School for the past 55 years. It is you, the faithful parishioner, who has made possible not only these buildings but more importantly the many and varied programs and liturgies that have taken place and continue to take place in them.

I humbly present to you the attached financial reports of last fiscal year. These comprise the final chapter of the long and fruitful pastorate of Fr. Thomas Bland. When he began in early 2006, the parish had a combined debt of just under \$2,230,000 and a total of \$212,400 cash in the bank. At the end of his august tenure, the debt was a mere \$38,384 (the remainder of a loan for last year's emergency replacement of the church's heating and air conditioning system) and the cash balance in the bank had risen to \$341,835. We all stand on Fr. Bland's shoulders.

As comforting as these final figures may appear to be, we must recognize – as you know all too well from your personal financial situations – that expenses continue to rise. And some expenses arise without notice: plumbing, roofing, air-conditioning, etc. These can be more so in buildings that are over 50 years old. I give thanks that the parish doesn't own any automobiles!

I am pleased to say that we are current in all our obligations. A great effort was made in the past several months to be sure that all monies owed to the diocese and other entities have been distributed. Aside from the balance remaining on the loan, which I mentioned above, we have no other outstanding obligations.

According to our records, our expenses increased 2% from the previous year (\$783,235 from \$766,334). One may think that that could be considered the normal inflation rate – which it may very well be. The problem comes, however, when we look at the Sunday collection which accounts for 75% of our income. In the fiscal year ending last June 30, our Sunday collections dropped 1.7% from the previous fiscal year (\$604,707 from \$615,583).

I know from looking at the previous annual letters from Father Bland that he conditioned his pleas because of the financial recession we all experienced. However, that frightful time is

behind us – praised be to God. I now ask all parishioners to please consider their weekly or monthly donation in relation to their gross income. I once saw that the average Catholic in the United States gives about 1% of their income to the church.

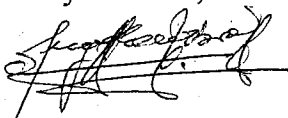
We could no doubt have a lengthy but ultimately fruitless debate about this number – net or gross income? parish church or all charitable donations? etc. But in the end, I think that each of us needs to say to ourselves as we put our envelope in the basket, “Lord Jesus, this is a sign of my gratitude for all you have given me.” . . . And yes, I receive envelopes just as you do.

So, if you are giving 1% of your gross income to St. John the Evangelist Church, you are in the average. Can you increase it to 1.5%? If you are donating less, can you please try to be average? If you are giving more than 1%, we thank you. I can repeat what Father Bland has written in previous letters: we do not have the resources to expand our services and outreach. In fact the parish has had to reduce staff and programs in the past couple of years.

You may not feel those reductions as you come to Mass on Sunday, but I have been told that they have taken a toll on the spirit and vibrancy of the parish. I am working with the Pastoral Council to develop plans to increase our missionary and outreach efforts in the parish. You will be hearing more about these plans in the near future. These plans will require all of us working together and giving our time, our effort, our skills, our gifts, and yes, our money. Please join with us.

Again, peace and blessings to you, my brothers and sisters.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernardin Mugabo", written over a horizontal line.

Father Bernardin Mugabo
Pastor

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church (Carmichael, CA)

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE FAITHFUL

July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

	2014-15 <u>Actual</u>	2015-16 <u>Budget</u>		
Operating Income			Cash Account Balances	
Offertory Collections	664,985	670,000	General Checking Account	120,401
Sacramental Services	4,436	4,600	General Savings Account	67,182
Parish Societies	4,659	5,800	Capital Campaign Checking Account	149,091
Use of Plant Facilities, net	8,060	8,500	B-Frienders Checking Account	5,296
Religious Articles & Books	8,945	8,500		
Donations & Unrestricted Gifts	19,493	2,500	Liability Account Balances	
Charitable Donations	41,752	35,000	HVAC Loan	38,981
Religious Education	4,097	3,800		
Parish Programs	8,754	7,500		
Parish Fund Raising Activities	9,929	8,500		
Other Receipts	37,280	32,000		
Total Operating Income	<u>812,390</u>	<u>786,700</u>		
 Operating Expenses				
Salaries	175,729	180,600		
Payroll Taxes	5,632	5,875		
Employee Benefits	49,746	49,700		
Automotive	5,071	5,300		
Church & Chapel	73,303	75,000		
Rectory	50,261	36,000		
St. James Hall (Old Church)	33,395	38,000		
Tralee Parish Center / Hall	62,709	70,000		
Mercy Hall (Old Convent)	4,189	4,200		
Office	38,804	41,500		
Grounds	18,210	23,500		
Religious Articles & Books	4,833	5,000		
Property & Liability Insurance	21,075	25,000		
Real Property Taxes	169	200		
Charitable Donations	48,134	37,300		
Religious Education Expense	7,526	6,400		
Parish Programs Expense	12,053	12,000		
School Support	36,784	36,000		
Parish Fund Raising Activities	7,637	5,500		
Other Expenditures	9,383	9,000		
Diocesan Assessment	118,594	120,000		
Total Operating Expenses	<u>783,235</u>	<u>786,075</u>		
 Net Operating Income	<u>29,154</u>	<u>625</u>		
 Non-operating Income				
Interest & Dividends	1,330	1,000		
Bequests & Special Receipts	101,882	2,000		
Capital Fund Drives	74,318	70,000		
Designated Gift (Non-Operating)	3,000	3,000		
Special Collections	43,911	37,000		
Total Non-operating Income	<u>224,442</u>	<u>113,000</u>		
 Non-operating Expenses				
Interest Expense	3,014	1,000		
Capital Expenditures	81,224	51,300		
Diocesan & Special Collections	43,317	37,000		
Total Non-operating Expenses	<u>127,555</u>	<u>89,300</u>		
 Net Non-operating Income	<u>96,887</u>	<u>23,700</u>		
 TOTAL Net Income	<u><u>126,041</u></u>	<u><u>24,325</u></u>		