

## Living as a Vibrant, Frugal Parish

Given St. Francis's financial difficulties, parishioners might be wondering about efforts to reduce spending. Here we review some budget cuts, note examples of resourcefulness, and point out the balance we're seeking.

### Budget Cuts

Since payroll is a large portion of our parish budget, deep cuts require personnel reductions. In FY 2015, both our pastoral associate and our director of outreach will split their time evenly between St. Francis and Our Lady of the Lake. Serving both parishes under this arrangement will be challenging; and the recent passing of Deacon Johnny will make the pastoral side even more challenging, since Deacon Johnny did a great deal of pastoral work. Additionally, we are not replacing our retired children's coordinator. We are also reducing our printing and postage costs by no longer mailing out our parish newsletter. Going forward, the parish newsletter will be available only on the parish website or via e-mail.

### Examples of Staff Resourcefulness

Parish and school staff members are working to avoid unnecessary spending, as illustrated by the following examples.

- Phil Konczyk, our director of music and liturgy, attends an annual professional conference. Often, by serving as a speaker at the conference, Phil gets his airfare and his registration paid for by the conference organizers, a real bargain for St. Francis.
- Have you noticed the beautiful green banners displayed in the sanctuary during Ordinary Time? Simply purchasing those banners from a church-supply vendor would have been expensive. So, at a much lower cost, Phil purchased material and had the banners made especially for St. Francis.
- The company that installed our new sound system offered to remove the large, old speaker from the ceiling of the sanctuary for a charge of \$2,000-\$3,000. Jason Heydens, our maintenance supervisor, wouldn't hear of it. Instead, he and his father removed it themselves, though the job turned out to be more difficult and dangerous than expected.
- Kevin Hilgert, our director of youth ministry, organizes many fundraisers to offset the cost of youth programs. The popular eggroll sale is a considerable amount of work, involving many youth and parents. For the 2014 eggroll sale, volunteers logged in well over 250 hours of work.
- Tom Dunkelberger, who drives Corpus Christi School's bus, helped to inexpensively extend the life of the old school bus by replacing parts—including all the seats—with parts salvaged from retired West Ottawa buses waiting to be scrapped.

### Striking a Balance

Though we aim to be frugal, we do not want concerns about money to unduly interfere with our life as a Catholic community. So, for example, we have welcomed Fr. James as our associate pastor. And, as planned years in advance, we purchased bi-lingual hymnals. Finally, we still sponsor parish celebrations—to celebrate the feast day of our patron saint, to say farewell to our retirees, and the like.