




OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH
ELLCOTT CITY, MARYLAND

OUR ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2007 TO JUNE 30, 2008

“Only when we meet the living God in Christ do we know what life is. We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary. There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is nothing more beautiful than to know Him and to speak to others of our friendship with Him.” (Pope Benedict XVI, Inaugural Homily, April 24, 2005)

These words from Pope Benedict remind us of why our parish exists: to bring people into a relationship with Christ, through the Church, and to speak to others of our friendship with Him through our parish ministries and programs.

Together with our parish staff and leadership, I offer you this brief highlight of our parish's life for the year July 2007 to June 2008. I offer it to you in light of Pope Benedict's words that bring our focus to why we are here. While it may be tempting or easy to evaluate "how our parish is doing" in light of numbers, statistics, and financial reviews, these never tell the whole story and are not ends in themselves. The ultimate criterion by which we should evaluate our parish is this: Are we bringing people into a relationship with Christ through the Church? If we are doing that, then we trust that everything else will fall into place. I am grateful for all that you do to help make that happen as you give so generously of your time, talent and treasure!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Erik J. Arnold
Pastor

Sacraments, Prayer and Worship

Sunday Mass stands at the center of our parish's life as we celebrate the mysteries of our salvation around the Lord's altar. From the celebration of the Mass flows all of our other sacramental celebrations, prayer, catechesis and programs.

Our weekly time of Eucharistic Adoration continued this past year, offering parishioners the regular opportunity for prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Our parish also added a monthly Children's Adoration program that gives our young children a chance to learn about prayer through song and Eucharistic Adoration. In addition, a monthly time of Adoration with contemporary worship music was added one Friday evening each month.

<u>Sacramental Highlights</u>	
80	Baptisms
99	First Communions
109	Confirmations
7	Adults received into the Church at Easter

Religious Education and Spiritual Formation

Our Religious Education program remained the largest of our parish ministries, serving well over 700 children and youth last year, from pre-K through high school. This tremendous effort in faith would not be possible without the generous service of over 120 catechists. Highlights from last year include the 109 youth who received the sacrament of Confirmation and the 99 children who received the sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time.

One highlight from our adult spiritual formation was the *Discovering Christ* course that ran for seven weeks last year after Easter. This exciting program offered over 100 of our parishioners the chance to hear and reflect on the heart of our Catholic faith in a friendly and enjoyable setting that gave many a chance to grow in their faith and experience the love of Christ in a new and deeper way.

Parish School

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School remained an integral part of the life our parish family. The 2007-2008 school year ended with 221 students enrolled. Twenty-six students graduated, five of whom received scholarships, including two Knott Scholars and a Ben Carson Scholar. Last year our school students began to attend weekly Eucharistic Adoration, in addition to weekly school Masses while our extracurricular activities were expanded to include Kidzart, Drama club, and Chess Club.

Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure

This past year saw a tremendous increase in the number of parishioners giving their time and talent in service of the parish. One notable highlight includes the wonderful work done by parishioners working with the Maintenance Committee to address the many needs of our buildings and properties. A re-established “Thursday Night Gang” brought parishioners out over a series of weeks to address a number of small and medium projects while our grounds were tended to with a number of clean-up days and special projects.

Our parish family also remained generous in their Sunday giving and we are extremely grateful for the sacrifice that our parishioners make in order to sustain the many active ministries and programs taking place at OLPH. Below are some questions and answers about our parish finances from this past year as well as a summary report of the actual figures. If you have additional questions about this report please feel free to contact a member of our parish Finance Committee. The current members and their contact information can be found on our parish website at www.olphparish.org/finance_committee or by calling the parish office at 410.747.4334.

Frequently Asked Questions about our Parish Finances

Q. What are the biggest day-to-day expenses of our parish?

A. The biggest day-to-day expenses of the parish are the costs of salaries and benefits for our parish employees, followed by the cost of utilities, building maintenance and insurance, and the cost of our Archdiocesan assessments. Here is a fuller explanation of those costs:

#1 – *Salaries and Benefits for our Employees.* The parish employs two full-time priests, one full-time religious sister, seven full-time lay employees and three part-time lay employees. The costs associated with maintaining our parish staff account for 35% of our parish’s expenses. (By comparison, a 2002 study of churches in the U.S. found that the average church spent 42% on payroll expenses, well-above our current 2008 figure.) Our staff is to be commended for their dedication, talent and sacrifice as they take salaries that are far less than they could receive in the secular world.

#2 – *Utilities, Building Maintenance and Insurance.* All of our programs and ministries need space in order to operate. Our parish campus is composed of the Parish Office and Rectory, Ministry Center, Parish Center and Parish Education Building used by our school and religious education programs, as well as two storage houses, sports fields and grounds. The cost of lighting, heating, cooling, maintaining and insuring our buildings and properties accounts for 17% of our parish budget. Thankfully this cost is kept lower since our parish now participates in the *Archdiocesan Energy Cooperative* that purchases electricity, natural gas and oil at a reduced rate for parishes. The Finance and Maintenance Committees have been charged with establishing a *Maintenance Reserve* fund for the parish that will be used to ensure that the parish is able to provide regular maintenance and upkeep on our buildings and properties. The parish has not had a maintenance reserve fund in recent years but good stewardship requires us to be attentive to our mid and long-term needs.

#3 – *Archdiocesan Assessments.* The Archdiocese supports our parishes and schools with a number of centralized services that are paid for by parish assessments from each parish. The services provided by the Archdiocese range from overseeing building projects (like our building repair this summer), to human resources expertise and legal counsel, insurance and technology. Archdiocesan assessments account for 13% of our parish budget. (Please note: For the final two quarters of fiscal year 2006-2007, in the midst of the difficulties associated with the transition in leadership prior to Fr. Arnold’s arrival, the parish did not pay its assessment for two quarters, totaling approximately \$80,000, which we are still obligated to pay.)

Q. I see “Christian Formation” in the budget. What is that?

A. *Christian Formation* includes both our religious education programs and youth ministry programs and encompasses all that we do for our youth from pre-K through high school. Please note that the costs associated with our Christian Formation programs far exceed the tuition that is charged. The tuition is necessary to help offset some of the costs, but in no way covers all of the parish’s expenses related to these programs. One difficulty to be noted is that there are many families that do not worship at OLPH or contribute on a regular basis but remain “registered parishioners” in order to make use of our religious education and youth ministry programs. It is our hope that these families would make a commitment to being with us each Sunday for Mass and not simply make use of our religious education programs. As the budget demonstrates, these critical ministries for our children and youth rely on the whole parish family for support and cannot be treated simply as a separate service the parish provides.

Q. It looks like we ended the year with a surplus – How will that be used?

A. The parish ended last fiscal year with a small surplus. This was the result of good stewardship and prudent management by our parish staff in closely monitoring their spending. This surplus is somewhat deceptive, however, because the parish budget for last fiscal year did not include setting aside any monies for a Maintenance Reserve account to be used for the normal but costly repairs associated with maintaining our physical plant, such as the boilers and air conditioning units. As noted above, the Maintenance and Finance Committees are now establishing a Maintenance Reserve fund that will be used to help provide for these costs when they arise. The Finance Committee will advise on how much to direct to that fund while also caring for the many other needs our parish has.

Q. Can the surplus be used to pay off some of the debt we owe to the Archdiocese?

A. As mentioned above, the small surplus should be directed to establishing a Maintenance Reserve fund. On a long-term basis, with the direction of the Finance Committee, we will do our best to maintain a regular operating budget that is fiscally conservative but also realistic about the needs of our parish and its many ministries and programs. If we are able to provide for all of the regular day-to-day needs of our parish ministries and programs and still have a genuine surplus, then we can certainly make use of it to help reduce our debt to the Archdiocese.

Q. What is the figure for the “Catholic Review”?

A. The *Catholic Review* is the official Catholic newspaper of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. The figure in this report (\$22,774) is how much the parish pays for the subscriptions for all of our registered households. Our parishioners are then asked to make use of the “Catholic Review” envelope once a month to defray this cost. A yearly individual subscription costs \$45.00.

Q. Does the Parish School maintain separate books and accounts for all of its finances?

A. Yes, the parish grade school maintains separate books and accounts for all of its finances, as well as its own School Finance Committee. The column “OLPH Total” in this report combines the parish and school figures simply to give our parishioners a view of the total amounts from both the parish and the school. Nevertheless, the books are kept separate from one another.

Q. Did the Parish School end last year with a surplus?

A. No, the School did not end last fiscal year with a surplus. It used some reserve income (\$53,739) from a prior year’s surplus for the current year’s operations.

Q. Where can I find an update on our Parish Capital Campaign?

A. The Parish Capital Campaign is not included in these figures, which deal solely with our annual operating budget. A separate report on the campaign was recently provided to all of our parishioners and is available on our website. Regular updates will continue to be shared with our parish family and can be found on our parish website at www.olphparish.org.

**OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH
FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008**

	<u>Parish Services</u>	<u>Christian Formation</u>	<u>Parish Total</u>	<u>Parish School</u>	<u>OLPH Total</u>
Receipts					
Offertory Collections	\$1,146,119	\$-	\$1,146,119	\$-	\$1,146,119
Investment Income	10,925	-	10,925	(9,432)	1,494
Restricted /Unrestricted Gifts	126,962	-	126,962	163,086	290,048
Tuition and Fees	-	67,186	67,186	1,179,025	1,246,210
A Other Income	69	41,943	42,012	60,159	102,170
Total Receipts	1,284,075	109,128	1,393,203	1,392,838	2,786,041
Disbursements					
Salaries	197,840	149,112	346,952	924,057	1,271,009
Benefits	82,304	33,505	115,808	232,390	348,199
Utilities: Electric, Gas, Water	100,082	-	100,082	27,370	127,452
Building Maintenance & Insurance	121,681	-	121,681	37,730	159,411
Administrative Expenses	60,571	-	60,571	98,826	159,397
Worship Expense	34,910	-	34,910	-	34,910
Other Program Expenses	-	84,814	84,814	-	84,814
Bulletins, Votive, Special Collections	15,504	-	15,504	-	15,504
Catholic Review	22,774	-	22,774	-	22,774
Donations	61,931	-	61,931	-	61,931
Books and Supplies	-	14,943	14,943	28,237	43,181
B Student Services	50,000	-	50,000	23,247	73,247
Archdiocesan Assessments	177,168	-	177,168	-	177,168
C Interest on Debt	86,176	-	86,176	-	86,176
Capital Expenditures	-	-	-	20,980	20,980
Total Disbursements	1,010,940	282,374	1,293,313	1,392,838	2,686,151
Net Surplus(Deficit)	\$273,135	\$(173,246)	\$99,890	\$-	\$99,890

A The school used \$53,739 of income from a prior year surplus for the current year's operations.

B \$50,000 expense for student services relates to tuition assistance provided directly to parish families.

C \$86,176 paid for interest on the parish center building. All future interest payments will be paid out of the capital campaign.