

Saint Bernadette Parish

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



worship
proclaim
teach explore
welcome
grow serve
challenge

Christ calls us, the Community of St. Bernadette...

To worship God; proclaim the gospel; teach and explore our faith; welcome all; serve all;
challenge each other to grow in faith; and further the presence of God in the world.

PARISH STAFF

Ann McDonald
annmc@stbernadette.org
Pastoral Life Director

Rev. Michael Murphy
Assigned Priest

Rev. James Donohue, CR
Weekend Presider

Andrea Montrose
montrose@stbernadette.org
Pastoral Associate

Pat Radford
pradford@stbernadette.org
Coordinator of Religious Education

Marge Sholl
marges@stbernadette.org
Coordinator of Youth Ministry

Phil Vendemmia
philv@stbernadette.org
Director of Music Ministries

Linda Neal
lneal@stbernadette.org
Business Manager

Jackie Hamilton
secretary@stbernadette.org
Secretary

Eileen Berilla
receptionist@stbernadette.org
Receptionist

Dear Friends:

Our ministries are thriving! Please enjoy reading this report about the good work accomplished by your generous gifts of time and treasure.

Our committees and staff continue to work hard on carrying out our parish mission.

Our ministries continue to grow both in new initiatives and in volunteers. What never stops amazing me is how much is accomplished on a very reasonable budget. The staff and committees are good stewards of your donations.

I thank those who made this report possible, especially Pat Fouse for editing, Lisa McMullen for her graphic design, and Marge Sholl, who was the staff lead on this project.

Last but not least, I thank all of you for your time, talent and financial gifts that make our parish a vibrant community.

Sincerely,



Ann McDonald
Pastoral Life Director



**SAINT
BERNADETTE**
Parish

PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Pastoral Council discerns ways to bring forward ideas for programs and initiatives affecting the spiritual life, finances and general welfare of the entire parish. In continuing support of the parish mission, the council has:

- ▶ Encouraged the Adult Faith Formation Committee to organize a parish retreat.
- ▶ Begun training to prepare for the implementation of the New Roman Missal with the assistance of the Liturgy Committee.
- ▶ Advised on a plan for implementing the Catholic Schools Assessment.
- ▶ Initiated a plan for updating our parishioner registration information, including an improved parish registration card.

There are 9 Pastoral Council members who advise our Pastoral Life Director, Ann McDonald. The council members are Bill Smouse, Melinda Deras, Stephanie Fromm, Ron Hassan, Fred Lang, Daniel Moore, Christine Nelson and Marcia Price.

This year, the council has continued to seek new members of diverse backgrounds and experiences to enable a broad representation of the parish community. Bill Smouse, who has been our Pastoral Council facilitator, is ending his term of service. He has served us faithfully, not only for the two terms open to him under our restructure but also under the previous council guidelines. We are grateful for his prayerful guidance and support.





CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF NORTHERN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CLUSTER

www.ccnaac.org

The Cluster Coordinating Council is made up of representatives from the 5 parishes in our cluster – Church of the Crucifixion, Good Shepherd, Holy Trinity, St. Bernadette and St. Philip Neri. The council supports the parishes and their ministries, works to guarantee services are available to all parishioners of the 5 cluster parishes and oversees cluster-wide initiatives. This year, the council organized a tour of the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen attended by 40 participants.

The staff members of the 5 parishes have visited each of the churches and workplaces and have built relationships over luncheons. The pastoral leaders, Msgr. Bozzelli, Fr. Bolger, Fr. Farmer, Fr. Picarella and our Pastoral Life Director Ann McDonald, meet monthly to discuss areas of mutual concern and to support each other in ministry.

Currently, the Cluster Coordinating Council is reviewing and revising goals and evaluating the need for cluster-wide young adult and adult ministries.

explore

JUSTICE AND PEACE

The Justice and Peace Committee is responsible for calling the parish to put Gospel values into action as a community. The committee brings Catholic social teachings into the daily lives of parishioners through education and community action. The committee members organize the efforts of numerous volunteers in a wide variety of programs and several subcommittees.

Environment Ministry

The Environment Ministry Committee supports St. Bernadette's 'greening' efforts and provides educational information about the environment to the parish community. The 7-member committee continued producing bulletin inserts with a focus on environmental education. A new project was the establishment of purchasing guidelines for parish events and for stocking the kitchen.

Gay and Lesbian Ministry

RECLAIM is a pastoral program that provides a welcoming atmosphere for gay and lesbian people to understand and reflect on church teachings and to reflect on their lived experiences of being Catholic. The goal of this structured program is reintegration into the life of the church. This year, the six-week RECLAIM program had 5 participants. Eighteen current and past RECLAIM members enjoyed the annual potluck dinner.

Adopt-A-Family

The parish Adopt-A-Family program served many families and individuals. Many parishioners supported this annual effort and Archbishop Spalding students and teachers adopted 50 of the families. Volunteers assisting in this program included the Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts and Knights of Columbus. Greg and Glory Palmer of Friendship Printers donated 2 trucks to distribute donations.

- ▶ Total families adopted: 102 families with 424 children and 645 adults
 - Local families: 2
 - Annapolis families: 5
 - St. Gregory families: 85
 - YWCA families: 8
 - Anne Arundel County Department of Aging: 2
- ▶ Other donations
 - St. Gregory Parish: food, clothing and toys
 - Maryland Correctional Institution for Women in Jessup: \$380
 - Mariner Health: donations for 38 residents



JUSTICE AND PEACE

(continued)

Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake

- ▶ Sharing Fund: \$ 2,952.41
- ▶ Lenten Collection houses donated by Early Childhood and Elementary students: \$835.57

Shelter Assistance Fund TOTAL DONATIONS: \$28,155.08

- ▶ Arundel House of Hope: \$5,000 annual pledge
 - To date, the parish has donated \$65,000.
 - We donated \$1,500 for the health clinic that will offer free medical care to area residents who do not have health insurance.
 - Support for the Arundel House of Hope will be an ongoing commitment for the foreseeable future and we pledged \$5,000 for next year.
- ▶ Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake for parish share of Clay Street build: \$8,000
- ▶ Japan earthquake/tsunami relief: \$3,000
- ▶ Pakistan flood relief: \$2,000

- ▶ Nazareth Housing: \$500
- ▶ Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake from Lenten houses: \$835.57
- ▶ Winter Shelter expenses: \$ 2,319.51
- ▶ Tornado relief: \$5,000

Casserole Program

195 casseroles were collected from 18 parishioners and donated to the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Glen Burnie.

Dorcas Collection Distributions TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS: \$40,432.29

- ▶ Assistance to parishioners: \$4,103.94
- ▶ HOPE (For All) - \$750.00
- ▶ NCEON: \$11,406.58
- ▶ My Brother's Keeper in the Irvington area of Baltimore City: \$12,897.18
- ▶ St. Gregory Parish in West Baltimore: \$11,274.59



JUSTICE AND PEACE

(continued)

Our Lady of the Visitation in Gonaives, Haiti Distributions **TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS: \$31,030.00**

- ▶ School meal program: \$26,570.00
- ▶ Various needs of the parish: \$4,460.00

School Drive for Sarah's House

- ▶ Funds collected: \$2,952.41
- ▶ Materials collected: numerous back packs and bags of supplies

St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Drive

Clothing drives in the fall and spring collected enough to fill about one-quarter of a truck.

Winter Homeless Shelter **WEEK OF NOVEMBER 1 - 8, 2010**

- ▶ Guests: 24 men and 16 women
- ▶ 102 volunteers donated 635.75 hours in staffing, food and transportation. Many volunteers worked several days during the week.

Sharing Fund Distributions **TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS: \$31,700.06**

- ▶ Sarah's House school supplies: \$2,952.41
- ▶ The ARC of Anne Arundel County: \$718.42
- ▶ Bello Machre, Inc.: \$718.42
- ▶ Opportunity Builders, Inc.: \$718.41
- ▶ Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake: \$2,174.89
- ▶ Interfaith Housing of Western Maryland: \$2,174.88
- ▶ Redemptorist AIDS Ministry in Thailand: \$1,069.75
- ▶ The Joseph Richey Hospice: \$1,069.75

- ▶ Maryland Food Bank: \$1,195.75
- ▶ Anne Arundel County Food Bank: \$1,195.75
- ▶ Sisters Academy of Baltimore: \$789.90
- ▶ St. Ignatius Loyola Academy: \$789.90
- ▶ St. Frances Academy: \$789.89
- ▶ International Rescue Committee: \$1,174.61
- ▶ Food for the Poor: \$1,174.61
- ▶ St. Bernadette Youth Baltimore-Appalachia Work Camp: \$2,359.68
- ▶ Christopher Place Employment Academy: \$1,494.94
- ▶ People Lacking Ample Shelter and Employment (PLASE): \$1,494.94
- ▶ Salvadoran Enterprises for Women (SEW), Inc.: \$1159.38
- ▶ Mary's Pence: \$1159.38
- ▶ Our Lady of the Visitation, Gonaives, Haiti: \$3324.40
- ▶ Anne Arundel County Community Action Agency: \$200
- ▶ Apostleship of the Sea: \$100
- ▶ Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore: \$150
- ▶ Camp St. Vincent: \$200
- ▶ Julie Community Center: \$150
- ▶ Murphy Initiative for Justice and Peace: \$200
- ▶ Our Lady of Mattaponi Youth Retreat and Conference Center: \$150
- ▶ Parish Twinning Program: \$250
- ▶ Partners in Care Maryland, Inc.: \$100
- ▶ St. Vincent's Villa Residential Treatment Center: \$200
- ▶ Catholic Medical Mission Board: \$200
- ▶ Camp GLOW: \$100

serve

FAITH FORMATION

The function of the Faith Formation Committee (formerly Religious Education Committee) is to provide members of the St. Bernadette Parish community the opportunity to continue their spiritual learning journeys. The committee offers preparation for sacraments, religious education for children and youth and adult faith formation. Many people are committed to this important endeavor.

Our 60 catechists and aides, and all special event speakers and leaders, generously share their gifts of time, knowledge and spirit. The committee supports the Mission of St. Bernadette Parish by teaching, exploring and challenging the community to grow in faith. Through our programs for children and youth, we strive to be a channel for welcoming families and encouraging them to participate more fully in worship.



This year two significant changes were made to our sacrament preparation programs. The age of children preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation has changed to seven years old in accordance with the archdiocesan norm of celebrating Reconciliation prior to First Eucharist. Children now prepare for First Reconciliation in the autumn of second grade and First Eucharist the following spring. Fifty-five children prepared for First Reconciliation and 29 celebrated First Eucharist.

The First Eucharist program has changed to include parents in newly updated workshops. Both child and parent are now able to share in this

hands-on prayer and learning experience. The First Reconciliation program is being revised and will also be a family program in fall of 2011.

This year the Confirmation program included 30 youth in grades 10 and 11. The Confirmation preparation program includes time with a sponsor exploring issues of faith, direct service to those in need, a weekend retreat and participation in a parish ministry.

teach



The Religious Education program for children in preschool through grade 5 had 127 students this year. A new addition to our annual schedule was a Ministries Day for our third grade students. Representatives from several parish and community ministries came to meet the children and share stories of how the various ministries serve God and our neighbors.

The Middle and High School program continued to meet on Sunday evenings. Along with the regularly scheduled lessons, the youth assisted with the Winter Shelter and had special lessons for Advent and Lent.

A team of staff and volunteers has been working on Vacation Bible School – a new offering for kindergarten and elementary aged children - since February. VBS will be held in July.

The Faith Formation Committee works diligently to create progressive learning opportunities that reach the spiritual needs of every member of our parish.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The Adult Faith Formation Committee provides the parish community with opportunities for spiritual growth. This year the committee served parishioners with a parish retreat, a presentation on Women of the Bible and the Lenten Soup and Speaker series.

The 3-day parish retreat, led by Fr. Phil Cover, was titled “We Are Chosen; We Are Called: Growing Into Our Spiritual Identity.” Fr. Phil and retreat participants explored the spiritual journey of coming from and returning to God and the stages of spiritual life. As a follow-up to the retreat, there will be a variety of new programs. The first is “Equip for Ministry” offered by the archdiocese.

In her presentation on Women of the Bible called “The Wife, the Witch and the Virgin,” Anita Gutschick focused on the wife of Job, the witch of Endor and the Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus. The performance was both entertaining and thought provoking.

This year’s Soup and Speaker Series featured the following:

- ▶ Fr. Phillip Cover: Crossing over the other side: navigating the spiritual terrain of life’s second half
- ▶ Sr. Anne M. Higgins: A poetry reading about the passion and death of Jesus; the use of poetry in prayer
- ▶ Rev. Katherine Klemstine: Spiritual care needs at the end of life: how chaplains and volunteers respond to the needs of patients and caregivers
- ▶ Dr. Pat Fossarelli: The Passion of Jesus – physical, psychological, and spiritual: a lesson for us all
- ▶ Saint Bernadette Liturgy Committee: The Stations of the Cross

YOUTH

The Youth Committee builds community among the youth of the parish. Ten teens and 8 adults serve on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC). Eight young people work on the Middle School Advisory Committee. Many more high school and middle school students and their parents help out in Youth Committee projects.

Parish service is an important aspect of Youth Committee activities. Youth volunteers organize games at the parish picnic, help out when the parish hosts the winter shelter, assist at the Advent Wreath Making and coordinate the Easter Egg Hunt.

Mindful of the parish mission to grow in faith and further God's presence in the world, this year the Youth Committee sponsored a field trip to the Basilica of the Assumption for Mass and a tour, participated in the Baltimore Youth Catholic Conference and took part in many service projects. Among them were:

- ▶ 30 Hour Famine to learn about and address the causes of world hunger
- ▶ Sarah's House Christmas ornament project
- ▶ Tate Hospice House Valentine decoration project
- ▶ Baltimore-Appalachia Work Camp
- ▶ Middle School Summer Madness Program



The Youth Committee can look back on many accomplishments this year. Teens serving on the YLC have taken on more responsibility for planning and implementing activities. They have incorporated celebration and prayer into each meeting in order to support each other and extend hospitality and welcome to all who participate in Youth activities. This year, the Youth Committee added a new event – a covered dish holiday dinner. The committee also celebrated graduating high school seniors in the parish with a bulletin insert recognizing their accomplishments and future plans and with a graduation dinner for the seniors and their families.



CREATING COMMUNITY

The Creating Community Committee plans parish activities that foster a sense of community. There are 8 committee members and many volunteers working on programs that serve the entire parish. The committee organizes the parish picnic, maintains the monthly bulletin board in the foyer, responds to people who sign the guestbook and sends a hand written greeting to each new parishioner.

This year, the group sponsored a new initiative — *The Favorite Recipes of St. Bernadette Parishioners & Friends Cookbook*. Sales of the cookbook, which featured 350 tried and true delicious recipes from parishioners and friends, began with a Cookbook Kick Off that included a sampling of many of the recipes!

The 55+/- Club made a trip to Harrington Casino. All participants had a fun time.

DIVERSITY

The Diversity Committee supports the parish core values by encouraging and fostering diversity and inclusion within the St. Bernadette community. The committee serves as a resource to parish ministries, develops ways to celebrate diversity within the parish, sponsors initiatives to increase awareness and understanding of cultural differences and creates opportunities for parishioners to share cultures and traditions.

This year, the 4 members of the committee have worked on initiatives that have touched most parishioners. To celebrate national heritage events, such as African American history, Chinese New Year, the Polish celebration of St. Joseph Day, and Asian Pacific Islander month, the committee created several informative inserts for the bulletin. The committee also organized an observance of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and sponsored the second annual international potluck dinner in conjunction with the parish observance of Pentecost.

Planning for a parish Diversity Day is under way for the coming year.

WOMEN'S CLUB

The Women's Club provides hospitality for the parish community at many events. Club members prepare and serve food and desserts for the annual Basket Bingo, make soups for Lenten Soup and Speaker night, serve the chicken dinner for the 300 Club, serve and furnish refreshments during intermission at music ministry concerts, provide food for the Vendor Fair and the Advent wreath-making celebration and furnish desserts for funeral receptions. This year, the group served food for the new Vera Bradley Bingo fundraiser.

The members of the Women's Club provide meals for the Winter Shelter and holiday food baskets for 3 senior citizens in need at Christmas.

Throughout the church year, the 17 members of the Women's Club serve as the helping hands of the parish.



welcome

LITURGY



The Liturgy Committee plans, coordinates and implements special celebrations throughout the liturgical year. These include Advent and Christmas, Lent and Holy Week, and Pentecost with its emphasis on cultural diversity. The committee supports all parish ministries and advises and supports parish leadership on liturgical matters. There are 16 committee members and many, many volunteers for specific celebrations such as the Triduum and Confirmation.

This year, Liturgy Committee members have worked to learn the new Roman missal by educating themselves and the Pastoral Council. They are preparing an educational plan to assist liturgical ministers and the entire parish community in becoming comfortable with changes so that the introduction of the new missal in the first week of Advent will be a positive experience for all.

Our Music Ministry continues to provide outstanding music for all of our Sunday Masses as well as for feasts and special liturgies. The Children's' Choir led music at both Christmas and Easter. The youth musical ensemble "Spirit" performed once a month at various Masses during the school year and led the music at one of the Christmas Masses. The adult choir and Joy ensemble served at our Triduum celebration as well as at weekly Masses.

Sacraments

Sacraments are grace-filled moments in the lives of our parishioners:

- ▶ Fifty-five people were baptized.
- ▶ Twenty-nine children celebrated First Eucharist.
- ▶ Thirty young people and one adult celebrated Confirmation.
- ▶ Eight adult members were received into our community through RCIA.
- ▶ Four couples were married.
- ▶ Eleven funerals were held.
- ▶ Many parishioners took part in the monthly celebrations of the Anointing of the Sick.



proclaim

ART MINISTRY

Art Ministry provides the parish community with artwork displays in the church gallery several times a year. John Kopkowski coordinates, organizes and displays the collection of artwork, in various media, from multiple artists in the parish or from a single artist. He also organizes shows featuring the creative work of the Archbishop Spalding art class each year.

HEALTH

The Health Committee educates the parish on health issues and assists parish members who are ill. The committee organized 2 blood drives and the meal ministry, delivering meals for individuals and families in time of crisis. The committee also provided valuable informational inserts for the bulletin.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The 68 members of the St. Bernadette Council of the Knights of Columbus provide support for many parish programs, such as youth group activities, bingo nights, 300 Club, Easter Vigil, facility spruce-ups, blood drives, art auction, parish picnic, the winter homeless shelter and pancake breakfasts. In addition, the council conducts activities serving Severn and Anne Arundel County communities. This year, the council improved communications by establishing an online group. The group received several district awards for their service and overall excellence.



Beyond the parish, the St. Bernadette Council actively supported:

- ▶ Providence Center
- ▶ Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge
- ▶ My Brother's Keeper
- ▶ Archdiocesan seminarians
- ▶ Sarah's House
- ▶ Annapolis Pro-Life March



BOY SCOUTS

Boy Scout Troop 975 promotes the growth of boys into men who are prepared to take on life having incorporated values and leadership skills while having a lot of fun along the way. Currently, there are 32 scouts, 20 adult leaders and many actively supportive parents involved in Troop activities. The duty to God as well as the Scout Law of Reverence is visible within the Troop at church services held on each camping trip, grace said before all meals and the prayers of thanks created as a part of formal celebrations. Troop members are encouraged to earn their religious emblems and celebrate their confirmations.

Each year, the Troop holds a planning and training event to decide on the year's activities based on interests of Troop members. This year, the Troop served county youth through support of Cub Scout Packs in Southgate and Ridgeway Elementary Schools. Troop 975 worked with the Christian Assistance Program collecting and sorting food for Scouting for Food. The Scouts continued to support the community of St. Bernadette throughout the year by setting up for events, assisting with the parish Adopt A Family program, offering Hospitality in June, and helping the Facilities Committee reconstruct the French drain around the parish building.

Troop 975 continues to grow with talented adults and youth and has had many successes this year. In the fall, the Scouts joined in the 100th Anniversary of the BSA with the Camporee at Fort McHenry. They celebrated Eagle Scout Tyler Argubright and his contribution of a new sign for the Southgate community. Plans are under way with 2 other perspective Eagles for projects at North County High School and Jug Bay Wildlife Center. Two Scouts are serving on camp staff at Camp Spencer this summer. Several Scouts served on the 4Rivers Day Camp Staff and the Troop offered a program to help Webelo Scouts earn their Outdoorsman Activity pins. A member of Troop 975 serves as the 4Rivers Chief of the Order of the Arrow. Several adults support Scouting at the district level, helping at events and holding district positions.

Looking toward the future, the Troop and the Knights of Columbus are discussing ways to work together to serve the community. The Troop plans on incorporating more high adventure into activities and works to continually challenge youth to grow in their own leadership. The Troop is working to be inclusive of each Scout who wants to participate, ensuring that programs and supports are in place for all to succeed.



FACILITIES

The Facilities Committee plans the budget for maintenance and repair of parish facilities and performs routine indoor and outdoor maintenance. The 4 committee members sponsor 2 events each year: the Fall Cleanup and Spring Spruce-up. Ten to 15 volunteers assist with painting, repairs and gardening at each of these events. The Facilities Committee is always looking for more volunteers to help out!

DEVELOPMENT / FINANCE

The 7 members of the Development/ Finance Committee oversee maintenance of complete and accurate accounting and reporting of all financial transactions in accordance with archdiocesan policies and guidelines. Through good financial stewardship, planning and budgeting, the parish remains on solid financial ground even with a difficult financial environment.

Initiatives this year include:

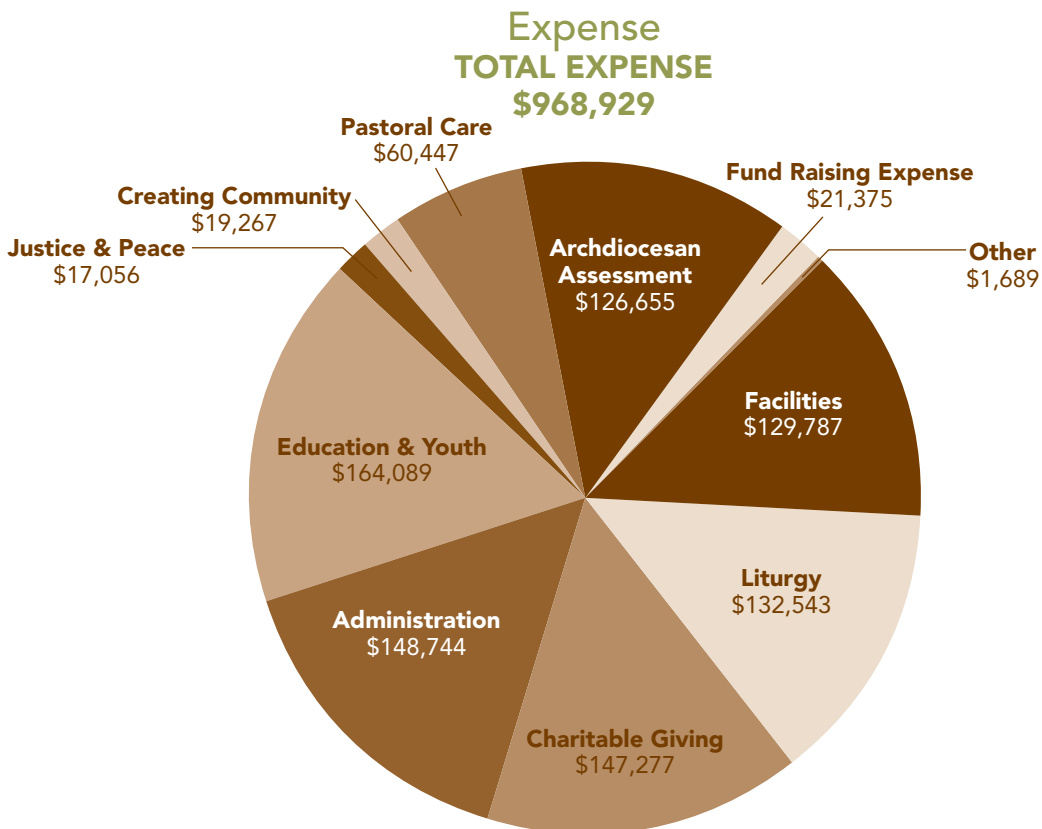
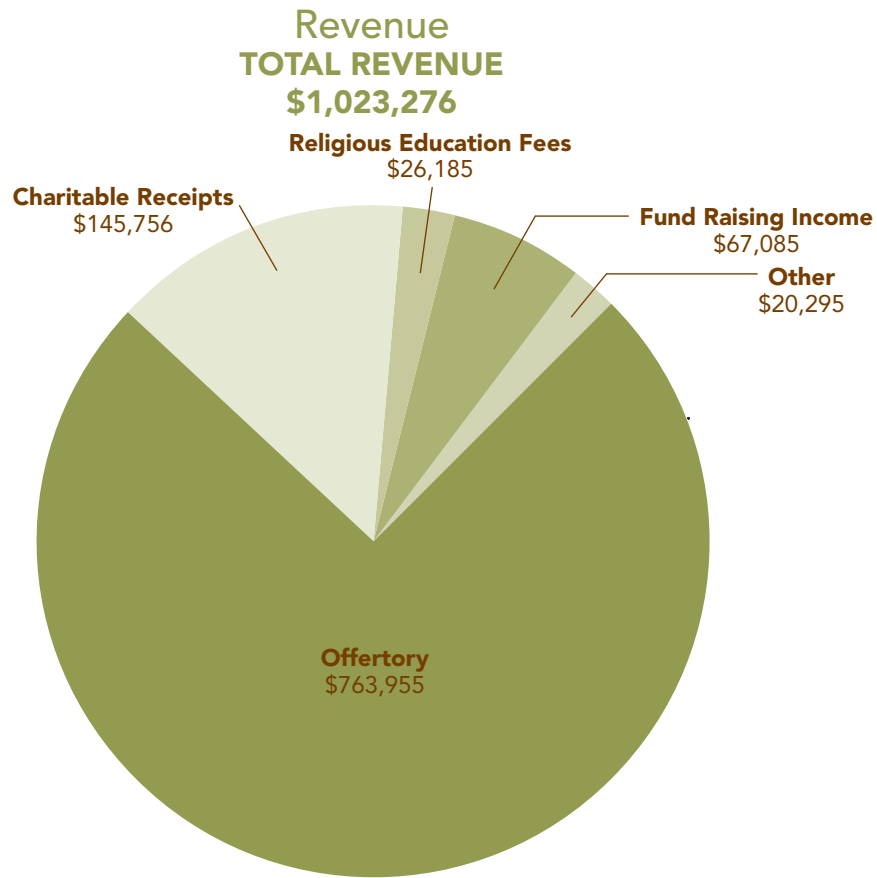
- ▶ A more personal approach to stewardship
- ▶ Successful sacrificial giving drive to raise funds for ministries while saving money for the parish
- ▶ Development of concise monthly financial statements for the parish bulletin
- ▶ Successful art auction fundraiser
- ▶ Development of a plan to meet the Catholic schools assessment



challenge

FINANCES FY 2011

Summary of Operating Revenue and Expense



Note: Surplus Operating funds are deposited in the Interparish Loan Fund