

2006-2007 Year-End Financial Report

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

Accompanying this letter, you will find our parish's financial report for 2006-2007. St. Joseph Parish has a long-standing history of generous giving and accomplishment by its members, and this past year was no exception. Once again, we are proud and thankful for another highly successful picnic, meeting and surpassing our Annual Diocesan Appeal goal for the tenth straight year, and continued growth of our Endowment Trust Fund. In addition to these outstanding accomplishments, our efforts were greatly bolstered this year by bequests. To say the least, it was a tremendous year for St. Joseph Parish. Thanks to all who gave so generously of their time, talent, and treasure during the past year!

With all of these successes to report, it would be easy to overlook one very important accomplishment. If you recall, last year's financial report expressed a concern over the decline in our most critical source of parish revenue...weekly envelope and basket giving. We asked parish members to look at their level of giving and do what they could to help meet growing expenses. The response to this request was not a surprise, but noteworthy nonetheless as total weekly giving was up 5 percent over the previous year. Once again, thank you for generously meeting the financial needs of St. Joseph Parish!

As mentioned above, bequests were a substantial source of income during 2006-2007. We are thankful to all who consider including St. Joseph Parish in their estate planning. What an appropriate way to give back to a faith community that has provided so much for so long in our personal journeys of faith. Recently, the Diocese of La Crosse asked its parishes to work toward establishing emergency savings funds, a worthy challenge for most. The recent bequests have allowed us to accomplish this and provide limited support to a normally tight budget. Even with these generous gifts, we continue to rely on the support of our parishioners through collections and weekly envelope giving to cover increasing costs.

Many are doing all they can to help support the parish. We are thankful for this, and we are thankful for all who give, regardless of the amount. Our request continues to be simple. Please make sure you're doing everything you can to keep St. Joseph Parish a vibrant, active, and servicing parish community. We thank you in advance for your continued assistance with the financial stewardship of our parish!

St. Joseph Parish Finance Council