



Saint Clement Parish Financial Report July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

Dear Friends and Parishioners of St. Clement,

This past year has been the first in almost a century of parish life without our schools. I know how worrisome this is for our community. It's the sign of times changing, and we find ourselves at a turning point.

At this time Saint Clement is sustaining the costs of two empty school buildings and a large church, all on the shoulders of a community that has shrunk in time. Fr. Paolo and I are working with the archdiocese so that every possible effort is made to use our properties for the benefit of our community and the Church. The Archdiocese of Boston has a policy of not selling parish property, so the only other option is long term lease; we are actively looking for interested partners, which is not easy for several reasons: from limited parking space, to the need for meeting spaces for parish use in the former high school building, to town regulations.

The trends the we have been observing in the five years I have served as parish administrator still hold. We have about a hundred funerals, twenty baptisms, and five weddings per year. The Somerville – Medford area is increasingly becoming an extension of Boston, with its urban way of life, less permanent, less community-oriented residents, and many transients. The vast student and graduate student population that Tufts and other neighboring learning institutions are attracting, should be obviously taken into careful consideration.

In our Parish Council we have begun reasoning about this situation and the necessary re-thinking of our parish mission that all this entails. It is a major task that cannot be just reserved to the group of people that are part of the council. We will have to work on the new mission as a community.

This leads us to the question of resources. Participation at Sunday mass is ebbing up and down: most Sundays our collection goal (\$ 4,000) is not reached. We are a small community using an aging, oversized church building in need of repairs. We just received a \$ 200,000 loan from the Archdiocese of Boston that will allow us to fix the steeple, which is structurally damaged and needs urgent attention. It will also pay for the new, gas-burning, heating system, which has been installed thanks to the generous efforts of the Iannuzzi family, whom I take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank. This work is almost completed, we are just waiting for the resolution of the strike that is preventing the gas company, National Grid, from connecting the new system to the gas network.

Our church is close to eighty years old and needs a new roof and several other smaller maintenance efforts. It served well a community with numerous families and hundreds of kids. This is not the case anymore. Our church should be re-purposed to serve our community as it is now, more efficiently. Can we do it? It all hinges on what will happen with our buildings, as I mentioned above. If we can count on a steady income from one or more partners using both of our school buildings, we would be in the position to do all the work that needs to be done, as we ask the Lord what plans He has for the future of our Saint Clement community.

May St. Clement and St. Charles, together with our Blessed Mother, look upon our lives, personal and communal, and shower us all with the blessings that we pray for and more.

Fr. Stefano Colombo FSCB

Parish Administrator

Revenue

2018

Offering (Weekly,Monthly,Annual)	\$208,573.00
Bequests and Lenten Sacrifice	171,932.00
Sacramental Offerings (Funerals, Baptism, Weddings)	66,127.00
Interest	8,103.00
Rental and Other Income	48,377.00
Total	\$503,112.00

Expenses

Salaries	\$125,600.00
Music Stipends	44,140.00
Employee Benefits	34,241.00
Clergy	34,879.00
Office Expenses (Telephone, Printing, Weekly Envelopes, Supplies)	17,085.00
Heat, Maintenance, Electric, Water, Insurance, Landscaping	161,298.00
Rectory Food, Supplies, Maintenance	31,576.00
Pastoral/Liturgical	10,846.00
Improvement of Buildings	13,971.00
Pilot, Catholic Directory	1,415.00
Maintenance School Buildings	62,382.00
School Severance (one-time expense)	120,779.00
Total	\$658,212.00
Loss	\$-155,100.00