



# Annual Report

St. James Cathedral Parish 2008-2009

**D**ear Friends,  
Every year St. James Cathedral issues an annual report on the financial condition of the parish. As we head into a new fiscal year, it is good to look back at the past year, not merely at the dollars and cents, but at the rich array of activities and ministries made possible by your financial support.

We continue to be a dynamic and growing parish with 2,539 registered households, comprising 5,152 individual members. Our parishioners come from more than 180 ZIP codes. 46% of our households are single persons; 29% are families with children. 47% of our parishioners are over 35; 35% are aged 18-35; 18% are under age 18. Well over 1,000 volunteers were involved in more than forty different ministries.

## SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

Our fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. During the past fiscal year, almost 1,300 Sunday and regular daily liturgies were celebrated, not counting special liturgies for Holy Days, the Sacred Triduum, and ecumenical and interfaith services. 106 infants and children and 18 adult catechumens were baptized; 17 more made a Profession of Faith and were received into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. More than seventy adults are currently enrolled in our RCIA program, preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation in the Catholic Church. 52 confirmations were



Our own Todd Strange was ordained a priest in June, 2009



We celebrated a year in honor of the Apostle Paul

celebrated; 23 children received their First Communion. During the year 50 weddings and 40 funerals were conducted.

## LITURGY AND MUSIC

Numerous Archdiocesan liturgies were celebrated, including Archbishop Brunett's Golden Jubilee, the Chrism Mass, Ordinations to the Priesthood, the Madre de las Americas celebration with the Hispanic community and the traditional Filipino Advent celebration, Simbang Gabi. The Cathedral also hosted Baccalaureate Masses for Holy Names Academy, O'Dea High School and Seattle University.

This was the "Year of St. Paul" and we celebrated the great Apostle to the Gentiles in our liturgies throughout the year. Other special liturgies included the Jubilee Celebration of the Sisters of Providence; a solemn Mass in honor of the 175th Anniversary of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul; a Mass in memory of the Deceased Homeless; a Mass honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and the observance of Yom HaShoah with our Jewish brothers and sisters. This year also saw the ordination of five men, including our own parishioner, Todd Strange, who also celebrated his solemn Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral on Corpus Christi Sunday.

In the summer of 2009, the Cathedral community lost three staff members in the space of just a few weeks: Linda Condes,

our coordinator of our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, died on June 17; Joan McDonell, Marriage Tribunal Advocate and editor of our parish journal *In Your Midst* on June 21; and our longtime parish deacon, Joe Curtis, on July 14.

Over the course of the year, there were more than 20 special concerts, recitals and other musical events held in the Cathedral, including the complete organ cycle of Olivier Messiaen in collaboration with St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, and of course, our own Great Music for Great Cathedrals, an experience of music and light celebrating the role cathedrals have played in great cities through the centuries. Nearly three hundred parishioners are involved in making this event happen. The Cathedral Music Program continues to be a tool for evangelization, drawing in people of all ages and all walks of life to experience the beauty of the Cathedral and of our tradition of sacred music.



Great Music for Great Cathedrals was a unique experience of music, color, and light

In addition, the Schola Cantorum Choir Camp in August of each year has become a magnet for children from parishes across the Archdiocese. In the summer of 2008 the kids took their theme from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians: *Run so as to win!* The week included not only intensive study of music, but staging the 12th-century *Play of Daniel* for family and friends, as well as prayer, fun activities out of doors, and time to be together and make new friends.

#### ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Special events and presentations in 2008-2009 included the second annual St. James Cathedral Lecture. Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ



A thousand parishioners took our faith to the streets at the Corpus Christi Procession, 2009

spoke on *Dead Man Walking, the Journey Continues*. More than 300 gathered in Cathedral Hall for her presentation, which was riveting and powerful. It was a great privilege to welcome this modern-day prophet to St. James Cathedral. Sister Prejean's talk was followed by a series of events relating to the full spectrum of life issues. Other events included: *Illuminating the Word*, a joint presentation with St. Mark's Cathedral about the St. John's Bible; a presentation of the film *Soul Searching: The Journey of Thomas Merton*; a three-week retreat focused on discernment of gifts; and a visit from Father Ben Beltran, who told stories of his ministry among the people of Smokey Mountain, Philippines. Helen Oesterle, our Director of Religious Education, offered Bible study during Advent and Lent as well as *Catholic 101*, a series guiding parishioners through the new *U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults*. The



Sister Helen Prejean gave a riveting presentation on the death penalty

JustFaith program, an intensive, 30-week exploration of Catholic social teaching, was offered for the fifth time this year, with eleven participants.

In addition, in Lent 2009, about fifty parishioners participated in a five-week study of the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship. The series, entitled *Putting God First*, was facilitated by parishioners and featured study, prayer, and small-group faith sharing.

### OUTREACH AND PASTORAL CARE

In May, 2009, the Cathedral Kitchen completed its second full year of operation (the Catholic Worker Group stepped back in May, 2007). The Kitchen has continued to grow, with 150 people of all ages and races sharing a hot, nutritious meal in the Cathedral Hall each weeknight—nearly 40,000 meals a year!

The English as a Second Language program (ESL) provided 4,800 volunteer hours and had 264 students. This program continues to be one of the most highly regarded ESL programs in the state. The St. James Winter Shelter provided overnight shelter to 10 to 15 men for 120 nights. Thousands of sandwiches were prepared by our parishioners and distributed through St. Martin de Porres Shelter and Operation Nightwatch.

The Solanus Casey Center, a joint effort with Catholic Community Services, and the Archdiocesan Housing Authority, has grown over the past five years into a marvelous resource where needy people in our



St. James young people participated in the Youth Migrant Project, working with migrants in Washington state



Twenty-three children received their First Holy Communion in May of this year

neighborhood can get the referrals and help they need.

Our outreach programs to the elderly transported approximately 25 parishioners to Mass each Sunday and conducted monthly “senior trips” for an average of 16 parishioners. About 12 of our shut-in parishioners received a CD of the 10:00 Mass every week and about 25 of our homebound received communion in their homes each week, allowing them to remain connected to the liturgical life of St. James. In addition, regular communion services were conducted by our ministers at Exeter House, Horizon House, and Faerland Terrace which reach more than 100 of our elderly. Finally, about 35 of our seniors were regularly assisted in their homes by the Volunteer Chore Program. Cabrini Ministers visited many others in hospitals, nursing homes and retirement centers.

**ALL THIS WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.** For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, our total parish income was \$4,722,317. This was comprised of \$2,107,979 in Sunday and other collections, Annual Catholic Appeal Rebate of \$172,257, \$2,181,605 in gifts, grants, bequests and fundraisers, and \$234,975 in business income (rentals from parking spaces and reception rooms, income from the bookstore, etc.).

The great snowfall of last winter led to a \$50,000 deficit in the month of December. A special “Snow Angel” campaign more than made up these winter losses.

Total expenses for the year were \$4,082,231, leaving us with an operating surplus for the year of \$640,086. This surplus was used



The Ministries Fair each November celebrates the rich variety of ministry and volunteer opportunities at the Cathedral

to fund a modest operating reserve and establish a Capital Maintenance and Repair Reserve.

Salaries, benefits and other personnel-related expenses accounted for \$1,938,614 or 47% of operating expense.

Each year a percentage of our ordinary income is assessed by the Archdiocese to allow the Archbishop to run the many offices, ministries and programs of the greater Church family in Western Washington. Our assessments this year totaled \$214,187.

St. James Cathedral Parish participates in the Rainbow Schools, a program whereby seven parishes without schools contribute to the support of the five Catholic Elementary Schools in the central area of the city. Our contribution to the Rainbow Schools program this year was \$277,917. Approximately 70 of our children are presently enrolled in one or another of these fine schools. Nineteen of these children were able to attend Catholic Schools as a result of our parish scholarship program, which continues to grow.

And the list goes on. None of these efforts could have been undertaken without the generous support of our parishioners and friends. We want you to know that there has been careful and competent stewardship of the financial resources of the parish. We look forward to accomplishing even more with you and with the help of God's grace in the coming year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Michael G. Ryan  
Pastor

## Parish Finances Q & A

*How are financial decisions made at St. James Cathedral? Who makes them? Glenn Lux, chair of the Finance Council, answers some basic questions.*

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE FINANCE COUNCIL?

The Finance Council advises the Pastor concerning the stewardship of parish fiscal resources. This includes long term planning to fund operational and capital needs, developing and overseeing the parish budget process, providing financial analysis of current fiscal status reports, and providing fiscal analyses of proposed goals, strategies, and programs.

### HOW ARE ITS MEMBERS SELECTED?

Members are chosen by the Pastor based on recommendations from many sources and on his knowledge of each candidate's qualifications. He expects members will have a strong background in one or more of several important business areas: accounting, management, finance, human resources, and/or law, and he seeks to have expertise in all these critical areas at any given time on the Council. In addition, Finance Council members must be committed Catholics who see their role on the Council as an important part of their stewardship of God's gifts.

### WHO KEEPS TRACK OF OUR PARISH BUDGET?

Members of the Cathedral staff and the Finance Council prepare the parish budget each year. The budget must reflect and support the vision and the goals of the Cathedral's many ministries. It is then submitted to the Pastor for approval. A great deal of the Council's ongoing work throughout the year is to evaluate the financial condition of the Cathedral, by analyzing monthly financial statements and making sure our budgetary predictions are realistic. We then advise the Pastor accordingly.

### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO PARISHIONERS WHO WANT TO SUPPORT OUR PARISH FINANCIALLY?

Be generous in your sacrificial giving pledge. Try to stretch yourself a little while still being responsible to other important commitments in your life. Remember the Cathedral in your will. If we give as generously as God has given to us, we will receive back more than we ever could imagine.

### MEMBERS OF ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL'S

**FINANCE COUNCIL** • Glenn Lux, *Chair* • Larry Brouse • Connie Davis • James Kern • Bryan Long • Celeste McDonell • Betsy Mickel • Dave Perozek • Father Michael G. Ryan