

SEMI-ANNUAL PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE

MARCH 20-21, 2021

On behalf of the Parish Finance Council, I am sharing with you the semi-annual Parish Financial Update. First, the spiritual and financial support demonstrated by our parishioners is awe inspiring during this past year of the pandemic. Please know that we are profoundly grateful for your commitment to your Parish.

Second, the Stewardship Campaign Appeal was once again amazingly successful for the fifth straight year! We surpassed our goal of \$150,000; with donations continuing to arrive, to date, we have raised \$228,771. We are humbled by your continued generosity to this important collection which benefits our many parish ministries, services, special projects, as well as assisting the poor, locally and in Haiti.

Third, we are **35 weeks** into our **Fiscal Year**, which ends on June 30. Our weekly collections continue to grow. Our weekly average is **\$31,220**, a **3.7%** increase over last fiscal year.

Due to careful management of your resources, income once again has exceeded expenses. While expenses are rising, we have been able to cover payroll, mortgage, ministries and services, as well as funding unforeseen special projects initiated in response to the pandemic such as the livestreaming of masses, funerals and special liturgical celebrations that were critical to keeping our community together worshipping. We also transitioned our PREP program to a homeschool format with the development of a video series featuring our seminarians and dedicated catechists teaching our children the faith.

We do have some sobering news to report, due to lower mass attendance throughout the year and especially at Christmas, our operating budget is only slightly above breakeven as we near the end of the third quarter for this fiscal year. We look forward to strong participation during the rest of Lent, Easter and throughout the Easter season. We need a strong fourth quarter finish!

Fourth, for the past few years in our updates, we have stressed that we must increase our Sunday collections to **\$32,000 per week by June 30, 2021** to maintain our financial solvency. We are **15 weeks** away from that important date. While we are **VERY** pleased and extremely grateful that many have heard our plea to increase their weekly contributions, we need to collect an additional **\$780 per week, on a sustained basis** to reach our goal. Historically, we have asked everyone to consider a 10% increase in their donation, but we know full well that the pandemic has hit some harder than others. So, if you find yourself in a position where you can give a little more to help us achieve our goal of \$32,000 per week, then we ask you to do so. If you are not in a position to increase your offering at this time and can only give at your current rate, then we humbly thank you for your willingness to continue doing so.


As we have mentioned, a very safe, secure and easy way to contribute electronically each week is through our **Parish Giving program**. Details can be found in the bulletin and on the

Parish website. Participation in e-giving this past year of the pandemic has literally been our lifeline. At this time last year, 25% of total weekly contributions were from e-giving. Over the past year, our average weekly e-giving amount has grown to account for **44%** of the total collection! We are immensely grateful to the **287** parish families who have transitioned to this method of consistent and sustained giving. If you have not done so already, we encourage you to sign up for this method of giving as soon as possible.

Fifth, while we are about to celebrate 10 years in our beautiful church in June, we need to make you aware that there are significant major repairs and projects that need to be undertaken, some immediately and some, over the next few years. These include HVAC insulation, exterior wood damage, church interior lighting and lighting the rear parking lot. Repairs have begun on items that were of a critical nature. We are obtaining estimates and developing a project plan for the others. We will continue to keep you apprised of the situation as these items will be very costly.

Sixth, our Evangelization Committee is diligently working on programs which are geared towards encouraging parishioners to participate in the many wonderful ways our parish offers to connect with God and their faith. Additionally, trying to encourage inactive parishioners to re-engage with the outward practice of their faith. You can assist the Evangelization Committee by inviting a friend, neighbor or family member to attend our various church services with you.

In closing, we once thank again you for your generosity and support. Without it there would be no OLG difference and we would be unable to live into our vision each and every day. Members of the Finance Council will be in the Narthex to answer any questions that you may have. Thank you for your continued example in Faith and commitment to our wonderful parish. May God bless you and your families.



simple. secure. convenient.

Parish Giving is being offered free of charge. At the same time, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish will benefit from a reliable and more efficient means to process the contributions.

- Ability to make one-time/recurring contributions
- Ability to contribute to multiple organizations
- Ability to select your billing date
- Ability to use Credit Card or Bank Transfer

To sign up for Parish Giving, go to the parish website. You can also contact Tom Rakszawski at the parish office at 267-247-5374 or email trakszawski@olguadalupe.org.

WWW.OLGUADALUPE.ORG/GIVE