

2011 Offertory Appeal Letter

2/1/2011

Dear Members of the St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Family:

Last November, members of the Parish Council and the Finance Committee provided an update on the parish's financial condition. At that time, we summarized the significant challenges that St. Thomas the Apostle Parish is now facing and indicated that we needed to increase our weekly offertory collection by a minimum of 20% in order to cover costs and begin to put the parish back on solid ground. Unfortunately, our weekly offertory has not increased as we had hoped, and in fact, in the 6-week period following our November update until year end, the weekly offertory had decreased in comparison to the same time period in 2009. We believe that this is attributable--at least in part--to the harsh winter weather and its impact on attendance at Mass. However, because this is such a critical time for St. Thomas the Apostle, Fr. Murphy and the Finance Committee felt that it was important to send this follow up letter in hopes that our parishioners who have not yet had the opportunity to do so will join in with those who have already responded generously to our request for an increase in giving.

Like other parishes and non-profits, St. Thomas the Apostle has experienced a decline in giving over the past several years, particularly with respect to our offertory collections. In 2006, for example, our total offertory amounted to \$734,000. By 2009, it had declined to \$630,000 and last year, it was down even further to \$607,000. In certain years, the parish was fortunate because the decline in the offertory collection was offset in part by bequests from parishioners, but in 2010 the parish received no such bequests.

And while parish income has been steadily declining, costs have continued to escalate. Consequently, for the last several years, the parish has been operating at a sizable deficit and has had to draw on its limited reserves on a regular basis just to meet our monthly bills. We recently made some very difficult decisions and have taken several steps to reduce parish expenses by an estimated \$40,000--through salary decreases, reduced hours, and the elimination of other non-essential expenses. We have no control, however, over the rising costs of many of our parish expenses such as insurance, employee benefits, and utilities. And this winter, the parish has faced additional expenses due to record-setting snowfall.

The current economic climate has produced significant challenges for our parish. But the parish has faced--and overcome--similar challenges in the past, primarily through the generosity of its parishioners. As we explained in our November message to parishioners, St. Thomas the Apostle needs to increase its offertory by at least 20 percent just to cover expenses and begin to put the parish back on solid ground. We are confident that we will achieve this goal if each of us does his or her part. We thank those who have already responded to our plea and invite others to follow their lead.

St. Thomas the Apostle is a parish rich in history and tradition--and we have the opportunity to add to its legacy. The financial challenges are ours to embrace. Please join the parish community in supporting St. Thomas the Apostle Parish and its future.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

With Appreciation,

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Finance Committee

	<u>Jan - Dec 10</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
· Offertory	607,361
· Investment Income	2,346
· Net Rental Income	3,625
· Stole Fees	5,975
· Bequests/Donations/Gifts	24,196
· Program and Events Revenues	1,399
· Religious Education Fees	10,740
· Miscellaneous Income	10,348
Total Income	<u>665,991</u>
Expense	
· Salaries and Payroll Taxes	380,383
· Employee Benefit Costs	110,859
· Contracted Labor	20,877
· Utilities	50,981
· Insurance	37,605
· Repairs and Maintenance	36,381
· Rectory Operating Expenses	19,016
· Office Expenses	4,303
· Miscellaneous Admin Expenses	3,681
· Sacrament and Liturgy Expenses	6,074
· Religious Education Program Exp	13,863
· Charity Expenses	895
· Events and Socials Expense	4,476
· Professional Fees	14,305
· Publications and Memberships	13,924
· Subsidy to Parish School	104,000
· Cathedraticum	33,256
· Catholic School Assessments	3,600
Total Expense	<u>858,479</u>
Net Ordinary Income	(192,489)

Other Parish Information

Special Collections 2010

Archdiocesan Catholic High Schools	3,068
Peter's Pence	2,761
Catholic Communications Campaign	1,990
Catholic Relief Services	2,831
Catholic Elementary Schools	3,122
Propagation of the Faith	2,878
Campaign for Human Development	3,021
Retirement Fund for Religious	3,365
Mission Co-op	2,281
Sacred Heart Church	42
Haiti Collection	7,054
Pakistan Collection	2,050
Archbishop's Annual Appeal (AAA) (Pledged)	66,057

Sacramental Records 2010

Baptisms	59
First Communion	70
Confirmation	28
Funerals	41
Marriages	18