

## **Town Hall Financial Update October 24/25, 2009**

Good Morning/Evening, my name is \_\_\_\_\_,  
As a concerned member of this community, I wish to speak with you about our financial situation.

As we all know, our country is experiencing one of its worst financial crises in the history of our nation. Our parish began to see the effects of this almost immediately last year, as regular contributions dropped more than \$50,000 from the prior year. We factored this into our budget for the current fiscal year, planning on a deficit of \$46,000. This included a pay freeze for all employees and a 10% cut in our ministry budgets. It was hoped this would be sufficient and we would begin to see a turn around in the economy by next June.

While this may yet happen, the situation has only gotten worse for our parish in recent months. Our festival, while spirited and enjoyed by many, was affected not only by the economy, but the weather, also, and fell short of its budgeted net income by nearly \$20,000. In addition, our regular contributions so far this year are \$15,000 less than expected. If contributions continue to fall short of expectations with the same regularity, we could see a deficit of nearly \$100,000 by the end of the fiscal year. Coupled with the \$30,000 deficit experienced last fiscal year, our financial condition is growing unstable.

We have approximately \$50,000 available in our operating account. This may last only 6 months at our current operating levels. We do have over \$130,000 in investments, though much of this is the accumulated balances of our many special funds, noted in the annual summary included in the recent monthly mailing, and are considered restricted funds. We also have more than \$40,000 in our Faith in Our Future account, which are also restricted funds, and can only be used for the purposes indicated in our campaign case statement. This means they cannot be used for general operations. So, while you may see many projects being worked on around the building and wonder how we can afford to do them if our financial condition is questionable, it is because we must only spend those funds for the intended purposes and we wish to fulfill our promises to you.

With that said, our general operating fund needs to be bolstered. We have been very conscientious about our financial condition for the past few years and have taken numerous cost saving measures to ensure balanced budgets and financial solvency. We feel we have done all we can to this point, short of cutting ministries and further reducing staff hours or eliminating more positions. However, we may not be able to sustain our current offerings much longer. We are working to sell the parish house to provide additional funds, but this may only be a short term measure if we need to offset deficits. If we can avoid a large deficit this year, proceeds from the sale of the house could be invested and allowed to grow to provide us with some financial security in the future.

It is time, now, though, for our parish family to be called into action. We have a generous community by many standards, with approximately two-thirds of our households making financial contributions to our general operating fund. You have also been generous in your contributions to our many outreach ministries, the Building Improvement Fund, and the Faith in Our Future campaign. We thank you profusely for this support. Additional help is needed, however, if we wish Our Lady of Lourdes to continue operating as it has been with its many wonderful ministries.

There are a few ways you can help your parish. If you are able to give just a little more financially, please consider doing so; if each household currently contributing gave \$3.00 dollars

more each week, we would be ahead. If you know someone who is a parish member but you have not seen them at Mass in while, invite them, and let them know their presence and assistance is needed. If you know people who are searching for a faith home, do not be afraid to invite them to pray with us and consider membership in our parish community; if we grow our community we increase our pool of contributors. Also, we have recently established a Fund-Raising Committee, which will be working on developing additional means for you to grow your relationships with one another, meet new people, attract new members to our parish community, and of course, bring additional funds into the parish. Someone from the committee will speak more about what you can do now to help with the committee's efforts in just a few moments.

While we have tried to present our financial condition to you in a simple to understand format and clarify some of our funding issues, hopefully resolving some questions you may have had, you may have additional questions you would like answered. We will invite you to the Hall after the presentation to raise these questions.

First, to speak more about the Fund-Raising Committee and its plans for the coming year is Joe Krolkowski.

**Joe Krolkowski:** Thank you and good morning/evening.

Our primary goal is to raise additional funds for our operating budget. Our intention is to actively involve our community, have fun, and attract potential new members to our community in the process. We have a couple of events slated for the remainder of this fiscal year, with the hopes of raising \$10,000-\$15,000 by the end of June. This is only a small portion of the deficit we face, but small successes with your involvement will hopefully lead to greater success in the future.

In the next year we intend to work a booth at Miller Park beginning next April, hold a golf outing next summer, have a daily calendar raffle beginning in January 2010, and put on a Harvest Festival next fall. While these events may seem a ways off, we need to begin planning and organizing now. You can help by being an active participant in the events, by spreading the word, or by bending the ears of potential donors. Committee members will also be available in the Hall to speak with you afterwards about your willingness to participate or fund-raising success stories you know of and contact info for potential future consideration.

As mentioned earlier, we welcome any questions you may still have regarding the presentation and our parish's financial condition. We may be able to answer some questions for you in the Hall afterwards, though most may need additional preparation time for written response in a future publication. We may not be able to address all questions posed. We now invite you to the Hall for food and drink and socializing, and remind you to sign up with the Fund-Raising Committee to assist in their efforts this year.

Thank you for your attentiveness today, and the loving support you have provided and will continue to provide to Our Lady of Lourdes. Please visit us in the Hall before you leave today.