

**St Raymond de Penafort Parish**  
**Report on Finances and Operations**  
**for the Fiscal Year Ending**  
**June 30, 2017**

*Welcome. Love. Serve.*

November 15, 2017

Dear Parishioners,

This is a report on the finances and operations of St. Raymond de Penafort Parish for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2017. The report shows that the parish incurred an operating loss for the year just ended of slightly more than \$33,000. While this is a loss, it is a significant improvement over the prior year when we reported a loss of \$59,868. This was a direct result of a conscious decision to reduce expenses. We are heading in the right direction!

This year we were able to finish some repairs and updates that were badly needed across the campus. These included completing the final phase of replacing badly deteriorating windows and doors in the rectory; repair and renovation of plumbing in second floor bathroom, and updating of electrical system to code in the rectory; renovating the parish ministry center (PMC) by replacing worn carpeting, modernizing the PMC living room, and repainting and refreshing the PMC offices; enhancing the technology in our parish school; school air-conditioning and upgrading several textbook series used in the school. The total repairs amounted to \$182,401 which was primarily funded by previous extraordinary income.

We were also beneficiaries of more than \$725,000 in bequests, and gifts which are not reflected in our ordinary operating results. Our savings at the Archdiocese of Chicago is nearly \$1.5 million. Overall we had a good year.

With the help of the Finance Council we are continuing to monitor our operating expenses in an effort to reverse the operating losses of the past several years. We cannot continue to rely on our extraordinary revenue to maintain our overall positive financial position.

On a very positive note we have no loans and no outstanding bills for fiscal year-end June 30, 2017. Additionally as of today we have no outstanding bills for fiscal year-end June 30, 2017. The enrollment numbers in our parish school and religious education program remain strong. The Teen Ministry is one of the most active in the area. And, as you will see in the report, the number of ministries that call St. Raymond their home and the good that they do for our parishioners and for those in need beyond our walls is simply amazing. Thank you for making this parish – YOUR parish -- one of the most vibrant parishes in the Northwest Suburbs!

Please know how much I appreciate your support these past several years.

Sincerely,

Reverend Edward Panek  
Pastor

Jack Schuch  
Business Manager

**St. Raymond Parish**  
**Income and Expenses for the Fiscal Years Ending**  
**June 30, 2017 and 2016**

<u>Operating Income</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2017</u>			<u>FY 2016</u>
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Total</u>
Sunday and Holy Day Collections	\$1,193,234	\$1,193,234		\$1,222,966
Christmas Collection	135,232	135,232		131,403
Easter Collection	76,539	76,539		85,506
Other Collections	4,711	4,711		5,462
Tuition	2,133,835	54,001	\$2,079,834	2,203,543
Program Fees	279,611	14,123	265,488	289,759
Rental Income	9,312	9,312		21,880
Fund Raising Income	130,518	59,844	70,674	119,102
Interest Income	11,237	11,112	125	8,376
Miscellaneous Income	<u>92,018</u>	<u>77,005</u>	<u>15,013</u>	<u>114,029</u>
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b><u>\$4,066,247</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,635,113</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,431,134</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,202,026</u></b>
 <u>Operating Expenses</u>				
Salaries and Benefits	\$2,980,851	\$803,209	\$2,177,642	\$3,036,283
Non-Liturgical Books & Supplies	67,415	12,660	54,755	44,647
Administrative Expenses	192,959	102,316	90,643	241,898
Transportation	573	573		660
Food Service and Meals	25,649	11,825	13,824	30,843
Telephone	15,780	10,894	4,886	18,287
Heating Fuel	27,444	17,849	9,595	23,218
Electricity	62,293	37,124	25,169	68,979
Other Utilities	22,267	12,021	10,246	20,363
Maintenance and Building Repairs	221,185	94,884	126,301	293,718
Altar and Liturgical Supplies	30,646	30,646		37,324
Furnishings and Equipment	9,660	5,704	3,956	26,294
Archdiocesan Assessments	230,940	217,845	13,095	223,169
Property, Casualty & Auto Insurance	101,545	60,841	40,704	107,591
Miscellaneous Operating Expenses	<u>110,058</u>	<u>55,065</u>	<u>54,993</u>	<u>88,620</u>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$4,099,265</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,473,456</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,625,809</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,261,894</u></b>
 Net Operating Income (Loss)	 <b><u>(\$ 33,018)</u></b>	 <b><u>\$ 161,657</u></b>	 <b><u>(\$194,675)</u></b>	 <b><u>(\$ 59,868)</u></b>

## Extraordinary Income and Expense – FY Ending June 30, 2017

### Extraordinary Income

Insurance Recoveries	\$ 4,419
Collections for Sharing Parishes	30,601
Archdiocesan Alms Collections	39,593
Estates, Bequests, Memorials, and Extraordinary Gifts	726,906
Locally Determined Alms Collections	55,266
Pledge Receipts - Upholding the Tradition	<u>3,064</u>
<b>Total Extraordinary Income</b>	<b><u>\$ 859,849</u></b>

### Extraordinary Expenses

Collections Paid to Sharing Parishes	\$ 30,601
Payments of Archdiocesan Collections	41,220
Payment of Locally Determined Alms	56,499
Capital Improvements / Expenditure of Extraordinary Gifts	<u>182,401</u>
<b>Total Extraordinary Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$ 310,721</u></b>

**Net Extraordinary Income** **\$ 549,128**

## Assets and Liabilities

	<u>June 30, 2017</u>	<u>June 30, 2016</u>
<b><u>Assets</u></b>		
Cash in Bank and on Hand	\$ 239,104	\$ 314,786
Funds with Archdiocese		
Funds from Bequests / Extraordinary Gifts	1,227,510	585,928
Long Term / Building Funds	269,410	267,505
Advance receivables	89	2,763
Store Certificate Inventory	<u>-</u>	<u>12,495</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>\$1,736,113</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,183,477</u></b>
<b><u>Liabilities and Unexpended Funds</u></b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 27,051	\$ 11,641
Designated Funds	<u>116,363</u>	<u>107,690</u>
<b>Total Liabilities /Unexpended Funds</b>	<b><u>\$ 143,414</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 119,331</u></b>

**Parishioners' Regular Weekend Contributions by Ranges**  
**During the Period July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017**

Donation Range	No. of Registered Families	Percentage of Families		Total Amount Donated	Percentage of Total Given
\$0.00	1422	49.53 %		\$ 0	0.00 %
\$0.01 - \$100	287	10.00 %		\$ 13,529	1.24 %
\$101 - \$300	262	9.13 %		\$ 51,841	4.74 %
\$301 - \$500	188	6.55 %		\$ 76,962	7.03 %
\$501 - \$1,000	361	12.57 %		\$ 267,149	24.42 %
\$1,001 - \$2,000	241	8.39 %		\$ 331,237	30.27%
\$2,001 - \$2,500	45	1.57 %		\$ 101,475	9.27 %
\$2,501 - \$5,000	53	1.85 %		\$ 174,435	15.94 %
\$5,001 - \$7,500	9	0.31 %		\$ 51,630	4.72 %
\$7,501 - \$10,000	2	0.07 %		\$15,915	1.45 %
\$10,000 +	1	0.03 %		\$ 10,040	0.92 %
Total	2,871	100.00 %		\$ 1,094,213	100.00 %

These results do not include loose currency and coin in the collection baskets.

Average annual amount donated by 1449 contributing families: \$755.15.

**Notes to Financial Statements**

(A) Miscellaneous Income includes athletic admissions and concession sales, spirit wear sales; funeral and wedding fees; baptismal donations; mass stipends; rebates from our bulletin printer; and miscellaneous donations .

(B) Miscellaneous Expenses include ministry formation and education expenses; hospitality costs for after Sunday mass and meetings; promotional ads and school marketing expenses; gifts/flowers for various occasions such as retirements, anniversaries, and bereavement; mission trip expenses; a variety of athletic fees (covered by athletic association fundraising and fees).

## **St. Raymond - By the Numbers**

Registered Families - June 30, 2017:	2,877
Number of New Families Registered During the Fiscal Year:	65
Baptisms:	127
First Communions:	133
Confirmations:	98
Reception into Full Communion:	4
Wedding:	26
Funeral Masses and Services:	87

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### **What Have Your Gifts to St. Raymond Parish Made Possible in the Wider Community?**

On the next page is a schedule which shows how much you, our parishioners, contributed to our various alms collections during the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2017. It includes gifts to our two sharing parishes, gifts to various Archdiocesan entities to support their good works, as well as gifts to other organizations that St. Raymond's Alms Committee has identified as needing our support during the year. Your gifts continue to support not only our own ministries, but those organizations which help those in need in the wider community.

## Alms Donations – Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017

### Alms Collections for our Sharing Parishes

Providence of God - 18th Street, Chicago	\$	6,084	
Holy Family - Roosevelt Road, Chicago		<u>24,517</u>	
<b>Total Alms for Sharing Parishes</b>			<b>\$ 30,601</b>

### Locally Determined Alms Collections

The Rev. Robert J. Loftus Endowment Fund	\$	3,307	
Journeys from PADS to Hope		9,786	
Aid for Women		5,503	
St. Martin – House of Hope		2,403	
Rags of Honor		3,043	
Lutheran Church of the Cross – Food Pantry		1,222	
St. Timothy's Well of Mercy		1,710	
Search, Inc.		2,395	
Cristo Rey High School		1,705	
Committee for Detained Immigrants		2,611	
Rest in His Arms		10	
Our Lady of the Angels		3,409	
Catholic Charities – Refugee Resettlement		3,959	
Christmas Cheer Foundation		3,056	
Pathways to Promise		3,754	
Agape House of Hope -		6,355	
The Peace Corner Youth Center		<u>1,038</u>	
<b>Total Locally Determined Alms Collections</b>			<b>55,266</b>

### Donations to St. Raymond's Emergency Fund

Disbursements from the Emergency Fund totaled \$5,558 during the fiscal year.			<b>5,500</b>
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### St. Raymond Back-Pack Ministry

**29,284**

### Archdiocesan Alms Collections

Work of the Church in Latin America	\$	457	
Work of the Church in the Holy Land		917	
Work of the Church in Eastern Europe		732	
Catholic Charities (Mother's Day Appeal)		1,947	
Peters Pence		1,719	
Propagation of the Faith		2,867	
Catholic Campaign for Human Development		3,525	
Retirement Fund for Religious Sisters and Brothers		4,285	
Summer Appeal for the Missions		5,070	
Operation Rice Bowl		8,849	
Seminaries Assistance		3,889	
Aid for Retired Priests		<u>5,336</u>	
<b>Total Archdiocesan Collections</b>			<b>39,593</b>

### **Total Alms Donations by Parishioners**

**\$ 160,244**

## **Parish Ministries**

Your gifts to the parish support many ministries which call St. Raymond their home. These ministries allow us to join together in service to one another and in service to those in need in the wider community. They allow us to join together in prayer, in fellowship, in learning, and in the pleasure of each other's company! What follows is a mere summary of what our ministries have been involved in during the last fiscal year. We may have omitted some activities, but only because of limited space to report all the good that you do. Thank you to all!!

### **Ministries of Care**

#### **Afghans for WINGS**

The Afghan Makers knit, crochet, and enjoy each other's company as they work to complete full size afghans which are given to people with special needs, to charitable groups and hospitals and as Christmas gifts for WINGS. Red baby caps are also made to be distributed to hospitals in February through the American Heart Association.

#### **Bereavement Ministry**

We celebrated 76 funeral masses, with our eight Bereavement Ministers helping to plan and facilitate the funeral liturgy, as well as presiding at wake and cemetery services. These included funerals for current and former parishioners, family members of parishioners and for those who had no other way of providing a funeral for their loved one. Eleven parishioners also serve as Funeral Sacristans on an on-call basis.

The annual *Mass of Remembrance* was celebrated on November 2<sup>nd</sup> for those who died in the past year. Each person was remembered by name and with a lit candle presented by family members.

Christmas messages of remembrance from the Pastor and Director of Care Ministries were sent to the families of those whose funerals were celebrated at St. Raymond, both parishioners and non-parishioners alike.

#### **Domestic Violence Ministry**

Domestic Violence Awareness month was commemorated in October with a Domestic Violence Awareness Banner and purple ribbons placed throughout the parish campus. The October 8 – 9 weekend liturgies focused on domestic violence in the homily, as well as special Prayers of the Faithful and candle-lighting.



Parish representatives attended the first Archdiocesan Mass dedicated to domestic violence awareness at Holy Name Cathedral on October 29<sup>th</sup> as well as the first gala for Domestic Violence awareness in April.

Articles with educational and hotline information are included in the weekly bulletins along with monthly Prayers of the Faithful for those affected by abuse.

“The Hunting Ground” was presented for the second year in July of 2016 for college bound students and their parents.

### **Ministry of Care**

Our more than fifty Ministers of Care brought the Eucharist to our homebound parishioners, to the residents in skilled nursing at Church Creek weekly, and celebrated weekly Communion Services for the residents in skilled nursing and memory care at The Moorings. They, along with the Director of Care Ministries and our Pastor visited parishioners at Northwest Community Hospital.

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The members of our new Prayer Shawl Ministry, formed in the fall of 2016, use their God-given talents, prayer, and fellowship to create shawls which represent a mantle of love and comfort for those in need of support. The 16 shawls that were gifted are a tangible sign of care and prayers as they are intended to wrap the recipient in prayer, comfort, healing, and strength.

### **Rosary Makers**

During the fiscal year our Rosary Makers distributed over 14,300 rosaries. The vast majority of overseas shipments went to Africa--especially Nigeria and Tanzania—with the remainder shipped to Pakistan, India, the Philippines, New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands. The majority of domestic shipments went to the Salesians, colleges nationwide via the Vocation Director of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, and Northwest Community Hospital. The balance went to Stella Maris, Blue Army for migrant workers, Missionaries of Charity in Chicago, a Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Facility, and general parish use.

In October 2016 Rosary Makers gave our annual rosary-making instruction to the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Religious Education students, as well as teaching our first 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Day School classes. We then offered our first instruction to the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Religious Education class at St. James School in Arlington Heights.

## **Seamless Garment/Respect Life Committee**

Parishioners from St. Raymond and other northwest suburban parishes supported the *Ad for Life* which ran in the Daily Herald on January 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. In addition to their signature support and financial support for the ads, an additional \$3,130 was collected and distributed as follows: \$500 –Knights of Columbus – Fr. Michael J. McGivney Center of Hope and Healing in Chicago; \$500 –Aid for Women/Heather’s House; \$500 – Women’s Center of Greater Chicago; \$330 – Illinois Right to Life; \$500 –Birthright of Joliet, IL; \$500 – TLC –Schaumburg; and \$300 –Waterleaf Pregnancy Center, Aurora.

The Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision was commemorated at all masses the weekend of January 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> with a special sung responsorial psalm and intercessions for life. As each intercession was read, a parishioner carried a flower from the back of the church and placed it in a setting dedicated to life.

In April and May 2017, the Baby Bottle Campaign was sponsored to benefit Aid for Women. In addition to the baby bottles, Aid for Women was designated as the alms collection for two weekends. During this two week campaign in both the parish and school \$2,230 was raised through the baby bottles and \$5,109 through the alms collection for a total of \$7,339.00.

## **Justice Ministries**

### **Annual Paint-a-Thon**

In September 2016 the St. Raymond Paint-a-Thon Team of fourteen volunteers cleaned, scraped, primed, and painted a neighborhood home in Des Plaines. This was the sixteenth year that St. Raymond has fielded a team in the annual Northwest Suburban Paint-a-Thon Project. Volunteers gave of their time, talent, supplies, and equipment to complete this project over a period of 10 days and over 119 hours of work on site.

### **Islam for Catholics**

St. Raymond hosted two consecutive evenings to educate and raise awareness around two questions: “What do Muslims really believe?” and “As Catholics why should we care?” presented by Fr. Corey Brost, CSV. On the second night an Imam and two Muslim women were welcomed to share their stories and answer questions. Over 100 people attended each presentation.

### **Providence of God Monthly Food Collection**

Through the Parish Sharing Program established by the Archdiocese, St. Raymond helps to support the needs of the people/parishioners of Providence of God Parish in the Pilsen area of Chicago with a monthly food collection. This year, 1,261 bags of food were

delivered to Providence of God through the generosity of St. Raymond parishioners and volunteer drivers who delivered the food to the POG Food Pantry.

### **Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS)**

In partnership with St. Mark Lutheran Church (PADS site), volunteers welcomed our homeless brothers and sisters on Monday evenings from October through April. St. Raymond volunteers prepared and served dinner on the first Monday of every month as well as two other Mondays during the PADS year. Bag lunches were also prepared for our guests to take when leaving the site. On average, 50 guests were welcomed each week, with a total of 1487 guests and 4461 meals served during the year.

In cooperation with other churches in the area, St. Raymond volunteers also prepared, served dinner, and cleaned afterwards for two Summer Suppers held at St. Mark.

### **Racial and Ethnic Sensitivity Ministry**

The 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Workers for Racial and Ethnic Solidarity was celebrated at a Solidarity Mass on May 21<sup>st</sup> at St. Raymond, with Fr. Ed Panek presiding and Deacon Dexter Watson from St. Malachy Parish assisting. A festive celebration followed the Mass highlighting the events of the past 15 years. This celebration included the six parishes in WRES: St. Malachy, Holy Angels, Holy Family in Chicago, St. Mary of the Woods, Queen of All Saints, and St. Raymond.

On the following Monday there was a showing of Tim Wise's documentary *White Like Me* concerning White Privilege.

Other activities included:

- Work with the Community Renewal Society in promoting and working on legislative issues with regard to racial equality and criminal justice.
- Attendance at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King assembly honoring his birthday.
- Support of Fr. Phleger's end of the year rally and march in June at St. Sabina.
- Attendance at a concert with YoYo Ma at St. Sabina in support of Fr. Phleger's "Strong Future Program".
- Participated in the loop area march on December 31st to honor the 708 young people who have been murdered on the streets of Chicago during 2016.
- Participated in the Affordable Housing March in Jefferson Park.
- Conducted a coat drive for immigrants at the Detention Centers.
- Hosted "Gracias" in November to help artisans in Third World countries with Fair Trade items.

- Attendance at the annual immigration meeting hosted by Religious Brothers and Sisters at Regina High School, including a presentation by Fr. Dan Goody of the University Of Notre Dame on the complexities of the immigration movement entitled “Welcoming the Stranger”.

## **Music Ministry**

More than 120 parishioners of all ages participated in the Music Ministry during the year as cantors, instrumentalists, or as members of one of our choirs – full and part-time choirs, teen choir, and festival choirs. Forty-three men participated in our all male choir was featured at the 9:30am and 11:15 masses.

In March the music ministry’s presentation “*Hearing God’s Voice in Popular Music: The Journey Continues*” was attended by 350 people of all ages, and featured members of St Raymond Music Ministry, including the parish choir and a number of our cantors and instrumentalists.

## **Youth Ministry**

### **Highlights of Branches and Teen Activities**

Our Branches Program provided a continuing connection to 158 high school students in our parish. Because of committed parish couples, eleven separate groups of teens met regularly to discuss a wide variety of topics of importance to our teens. Our teens also participated in a variety of service projects throughout the year.

Just a small sampling of the topics discussed in the various groups . . .

- How to bring prayer and faith into everyday life
- Learning about hunger and our call to social justice
- Discerning your gifts—what is God calling you to?
- Friendship and the qualities of friends
- Emotional intelligence
- Parent and Teens—understanding each other
- Alcohol and drugs—truth, decision-making, discussions
- Texting and driving
- Finding balance in life—prioritizing what truly matters
- The College process—where to go; keeping faith alive in college
- Poverty and homelessness
- Moral decision-making: discussing controversial topics / taking sides
- Healthy Dating Relationships and Quality of boyfriends/girlfriends

Service Opportunities provided to our teens this past year:

Teen Service Week Chicago (June 2016)  
Milwaukee Urban Plunge (July 2016)—educational and service opportunity focusing on hunger, homelessness, and immigration  
Timothy's Ministry—feeding the homeless & sharing lunch & prayer (October)  
Ronald McDonald House —making & serving meals to families staying at house (Nov)  
PADS shelter—packing toiletry bags for St. Marks site (April)  
Adopt a Family Catholic Charities—buying necessities and gifts for a family in need  
Operation Shoebox—packing gifts, and sending prayers and love to needy children across the world  
Easter Baskets for needy children and Feed My Starving Children

Prayer, Faith, & Retreat Opportunities this year:

Discovery Overnight Retreat with St. Cecilia's (attended & led by St. Rays & St Cecilia's teens) (June)  
Confirmation Retreat for 115 Freshmen led by 21 junior & senior teen leaders at Cabrini Retreat Center (Sept)  
Kairos 2 (Feb 2017) and monthly follow up gatherings  
Learning different ways to pray (Examen prayer, rosary, meditation, yoga, music, gratitude prayer)  
Welcome Back Mass & Pizza for College students (Dec 2016)  
Celebration of Seniors and Confirmation Candidates at mass (April 2017)  
Making Paschal Candles at Lent, Advent Wreaths, doing Stations of Cross,

## **Children's Religious Education**

The Religious Education program allowed our catechists and teachers shape the faith lives of over 1,100 students in our combined schools.

- The Religious Education program had 31 catechists working with 340 students. There were an additional 110 students in the Home Study program.
- 125 Second Grade students received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion in 2017.

- 105 High School Freshman received the Sacrament of Confirmation in November of 2016 and 80 High School Freshman will receive the Sacrament this November, 2017.
- 145 children had fun at Vacation Bible School this summer while learning that they were “Built for a Purpose.”
- Students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades participated in retreats.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students dramatized the Nativity Story for all Religious Education students and parents.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students reenacted the Stations of the Cross for all Religious Education students and parents.
- All grades 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> participated in guided meditation as well as a traditional prayer service for each grade throughout the year.
- All students participated in a prayer jar activity between the school students and Religious Ed students, by praying for each other’s intentions that were put into the jar each week.
- Each grade level was assigned a month to bring in non-perishable food items for the Backpack Ministry.
- Each grade level collected items for Phil’s Friends. The items are put together in care packages and given to Cancer patients.

## **St. Raymond Parish School**

### **2016-2017 School Highlights**

- Enrollment: 490 students in Pre-School through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Grades K-2 Adopted a New Mathematics Program, **GO MATH!**
- *SRS News Station* has been created to have a weekly news program aired for all students and staff.
- All students continued to be assessed 3 times a year in the area of reading fluency, comprehension, math computation and application.
- Second Step Curriculum introduced to Jr. High Students.
- School Social Worker on campus 4 days a week to assist in meeting the daily needs of our students.
- Continued to support our sharing parish, Holy Family in Chicago, at Christmas and Easter time
- Collaborated with parish on bi-monthly school/parish mass.
- Students learned about St. Raymond Backpack Ministry and collected enough food for this important ministry for 4 months.

- Worked with the parish to create home blessing kits.
- Emphasized service as part of our motto.
- Created a Student Leadership Team.
- Student Leadership Team hosted trimester Pep Assemblies.
- Each classroom in K-5 had an opportunity to work with the school social worker once a month emphasizing on building a toolbox to help understand their social emotional learning.
- Teachers grades K-8 observed and were trained in the Lucy Calkins, Writer's Workshop Program.
- As a school we were evaluated by the Illinois State Board of Education and received recognition from them with no errors.
- Mobile Therapies partnership continued meeting the needs of our students.

## **Parish Life Commission**

St. Raymond's social events brought together parishioners of all ages throughout the year in a variety of social activities. Highlights from last year include:

We began the year with our *Annual Summer Picnic*. Lively music, tasty food, games for the children and shared company was enjoyed by all.

Our *Summer Concert in the Courtyard* was a huge success with Johnny Burnett and the Pepperland Rockestra, a Beatles Tribute Band. It certainly was a grand evening filled with food, drink, and great music.

Our 5k run/walk was a huge success with both seasoned and novice runners going the distance. Even though we had a monumental rainstorm just after the race started, everyone finished the race with a smile ... and the sun peeked through for the 100-yard dash.

*Monster Mash* was a great success. Spooks of all ages entertained. More than 600 children and adults had a Spooktacular time. The *Mini-Mash* for our littlest of spooks provided our youngsters great fun in the un-haunted house game-playing in the courtyard.

Our three *Fish Fry Fridays* during Lent were again very successful and filled with friendship and fellowship. The addition of seating in the Community Room this was a huge hit and enjoyed by many adults. Our final week's Fish Fry featured Corned Beef and Cabbage as well as fish to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

In February, we gathered for the *Denim & Diamonds Benefit Gala Dinner Dance and Live Auction* – a night filled with friends, great food, music, dancing and fellowship. A great time was had by all!

In April more than 150 women of the parish enjoyed *Ladies Night Out* coming together to play BINGO and share in the hospitality!

The *Parish Youth Theatre* performed “Annie Jr.” over Memorial Day weekend. We were all mesmerized by the talent and commitment of our young people.

*St. Raymond Women's Club* meets monthly between September and May, offering a variety of speakers and topics which are geared to women of all ages. They sponsor group trips and outings, supporting a different charity each month, plus donating gifts to those in our parish who are in need of our prayers, love and support. The year ends in May with a parish-wide living, moving rosary and crowning of Our Blessed Lady.

The Women's Club goal is to help women grow spiritually, socially, and to further the service interests of our parish.

The Parish Life Commission is always looking for individuals who enjoy the ministry of hospitality. Through our events we promote friendship and fellowship. Whether you can give an hour or two, a month, or an extended amount of time, we invite you to join us. With events happening throughout the year, there is certainly something for everyone.

## **Worship Commission**

### **Altar Servers**

Our Altar Server Ministry remains very strong and vibrant. Over 50 young people were trained over the summer. A good number of Servers will soon be trained for funerals and weddings. We are so proud that our weekend masses are ministered by our High School Altar Server ministry.

### **Art and Environment**

The Art and Environment Ministry works hard to design and implement the seasonal decorations, banners, altar cloths and anything that is necessary to enhance the aesthetic environment of the church space. There is always an invitation for our fellow parishioners to join this ministry.

### **Children's Liturgy of the Word – CLOW**

We always have an invitation for our parishioners to join this ministry as we bring the Good News to the Children! Through prayer, song and activities, our ministers lead a



child-centered celebration of the Liturgy of the Word (for children ages 5 and up). We attempt to provide our children an opportunity to discuss and experience the Gospel in an age-appropriate, smaller group setting to better help them apply it to their daily lives. We also offer the invitation to our Young Adults post-Confirmation.

### **Communion Ministers**

This is a very rewarding ministry that we wish many parishioners would experience. There is a moment when hands touch, eyes lock and we connect with the Body of Christ raised between us; a moment of “communion” for both with Christ in the center.

### **Family Mass Ministry**

The Family Mass Ministry continues to provide a Sunday worship experience that is engaging and one that involves parents and children, alike. We continue to facilitate the participation of families at the 9:30 Mass on the first Sunday of each month, from October through June; to coordinate the following special events: the “child-focused Christmas Eve Mass, the Stations of the Cross reenactment for families on Good Friday; and the pet blessing on St Francis’s feast day in October. We are in need of more ministers to assist the families.

### **Lectors**

The Lector’s role is to be prepared and internalize renderings of the Word. Lectors attempt to reach and make the Word significant to each member of the assembly through their proclamation. Like the Cantor Ministry, this interested will be asked to audition.

### **Liturgical Dancers**

Our Liturgical Dancer Ministry offers an interpretation of the scriptures through dance. As the young ladies grow each year, one can see the progression to their talent. We have been pleased to have a senior dancer, who is in college, return home at our Easter Vigil for the past number of years.

### **Ushers**

Our Ushers are ministers of the liturgy who do more than assist the congregation in finding seats, providing assistance, directions and information. The role of the Usher is to be a Minister of Hospitality making sure that every person feels not only welcome, but also feel that they belong to this community of faith.

## **Adult Formation Ministry**

### **RCIA -- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

Last year, at our Easter Vigil celebration, we welcomed four new members into our faith community. And we are all blessed to count them as friends and companions.

The RCIA is truly a ministry of loving, welcoming and serving others – the entire faith community of St. Raymond plays a crucial role in this. A wonderful team of parishioners (the RCIA Team) met on a weekly basis with the candidates. They shared their faith and lives with the candidates, and they formed close relationships as they journey with these women and men to full initiation into our faith community.

### **Moms Plus**

Moms Plus groups met several times a month to share experiences, support one another, work on service projects, and plan fun moms-only outings. Moms Plus groups welcome expectant moms, moms with infants, and moms with kids in school and out of school. Groups accommodate moms that work full-time, part-time, work from home, and stay-at-home moms

### **Gathering of Women**

For over fifteen years, this opportunity has been offered on two Saturdays during the year (in October and January). The morning begins at 8:00 am with Mass, and is followed by a continental breakfast, good company, and an informative and inspiring speaker who typically finishes around 11:00 am. These gatherings often attract one hundred or more women who appreciate the format, the time frame, the opportunity to get together with other women, and of course the speakers. Topics include issues of spirituality, relationships, church, balance in our lives, and topics that are creative and hope filled. Please consider joining us in the future.

### **Women's Spirituality Circles**

Women's Spirituality Circles are small groups of women who gather on a monthly schedule to nourish and reflect upon and share their own spiritual lives. Each group typically selects a book to read and use as a resource which enables the women to come to a deeper understanding of themselves and their own unique spirituality. Through reading, discussion, and prayerful reflection, the women experience a deeper prayer life and the invitation to share their gifts in service to God's people. They gather strength, insight, and a sense of gratitude from one another.

## **Moms' Rosary Group**

The Moms' Rosary Group met once a month to pray the rosary for their adult children and their concerns.

## **Grandmothers in Prayer**

Grandmothers in Prayer provides grandmothers a special way to connect with their grandchildren: by praying for them. These women come together on two Wednesdays every month to pray for their grandchildren, their schools, and teachers.

## **Men's Christ Renews His Parish -- CRHP**

Christ Renews His Parish is a unique weekend experience that offers men the opportunity to hear other men share their faith and life experiences, to pray, reflect, and enjoy the brotherhood of other men. Forget your past notions, ideas or images of a retreat. It's not like that! The time together highlights how God is at work in men's lives – through both their struggles and triumphs. Hundreds of men have experienced these special weekends since 1981. Ages of past participants have ranged from men in their 20's to their 80's. Please consider joining us for the next men's weekend.

## **Men of Action and Contemplation – MAC**

Groups message more fully in their daily lives. A resource book based on the daily scripture readings is typically used. Each daily reflection contains a scripture reading, a contemporary story, a question for one's own life application, and a concluding thought for the day. Each man is asked to find a few minutes each day to reflect and pray over the daily reflection. New members are always welcome.

## **Mornings for Men**

Mornings for Men is a periodic opportunity for men to gather together, typically on a Saturday morning, for Mass, a continental breakfast, a speaker, and reflection and discussion. The men gather at 8:00 am and are on their way home by about 11 am. Speaker topics are generally related to men's daily lives and spiritual growth.

## **Men's Saturday Morning Scripture Group**

A group of men meet on Saturday mornings at 6:00 am to read, study, discuss, and pray the scriptures typically from the upcoming Sunday liturgy. Despite the early hour, this is a lively yet reflective group that not only shares scripture but also life's joys and challenges. When they finish about 7:30 am, there is still amply time to take part in the weekend's other activities. Consider joining this group of men who appreciate the beauty of God's word and the beauty of the life He has given each of us.