



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

June/July 2014

My dear parishioners,

I've been back a month now from our pilgrimage to Prague, Salzburg and Vienna. Wow! What a trip! It was fantastic. Great fellow pilgrims, beautiful sights, inspiring liturgies, very tasty food, and many great photographs! Now we can begin discussing our next parish pilgrimage!

The Cathedral Parish is marking important steps along its path as we look forward to **the 75th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Washington** and the first celebrations of the **175th Anniversary of the parish**. The Archdiocese has just completed its First Synod. The delegates presented the Cardinal with the fruits of their work—a set of statutes that will form the context for parish planning in the near future. We have much in front of us, and much to look forward to!

Body of Christ, Body of Faith

Since 1840, the vitality of our parish has depended on parishioners' generous contributions of time, talent, and treasure. We provide for the material and spiritual needs of approximately 60 homeless adults **every Monday**, regularly minister the Sacraments to our parish community, offer 29 masses **per week** and dozens of Faith Formation events **every month** for children and adults. **This year**, we welcomed 25 new Catholics into full communion with the Church.

Ours is an active Body of Faith within the Church of Washington, working to give witness to the presence of Christ in the DC area. Next year, our parish's 175th Anniversary year, we will celebrate who we have been, who we are, and who we want to become. Together, with the diversity of talents and gifts with which our Cathedral parish is blessed, let us carry into the future our work of bringing God's reign to reality among us.

A Challenge and an Invitation: *Let the Holy Spirit Awaken Us to Our Gifts and Talents, and Build Unity Among Us*

St. Matthew's Committees and Ministries provide countless opportunities by which you can contribute to the vision for our future. Carrying out our mission—building up the Kingdom of God **among us**—requires openness on the part of, and participation by, **all of us**. 'Makes sense,' you say, 'but what do I have to give?'

"[T]he Holy Spirit would appear to create disorder in the Church, since he brings the diversity of charisms and gifts; yet all this, by his working, is a great source of wealth, for the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of unity . . . In the Church, it is the Holy Spirit who creates harmony. One of Fathers of the Church has an expression which I love: the Holy Spirit himself is harmony – "Ipse harmonia est". Only the Spirit can awaken diversity, plurality and multiplicity, while at the same time building unity. . . . (Pope Francis, Pentecost Sunday 2013 Homily)

You enhance the welcoming atmosphere in our parish when you introduce yourself to a new parishioner, join the community and share in coffee and hospitality after Mass, and assist new immigrants with their ESL courses.

You deepen others' commitment to the faith when you serve as an RCIA sponsor, participate in our liturgical celebrations, and enjoy some wine and wisdom with the Cathedral Young Adults.

You serve as witnesses of Christ's work when you *donate* to Adopt-A-Family, *run* for vocations, *March* for Life, and *greet* one another as Ministers of Hospitality.

You enhance our infrastructure when you suggest ways for our internal systems to improve, and respond to parish surveys and other avenues of outreach.

Your financial contributions are particularly critical to our infrastructure, whether through bequests, *Faith Direct*, or in the Sunday offertory. They keep the lights on (literally!), ensure we have sufficient staff to keep programs running smoothly, and cover the costs of visiting priests to celebrate Mass and hear confessions.

These acts connect us to God and to one another. **Each one of you is needed. I ask you, as a parishioner of St. Matthew's Cathedral Parish, to pray regularly for the vitality and well-being of our parish. I also challenge you to learn more about our work, and to contribute your energy and ideas to St. Matthew's presence and work in the DC area,** particularly during this time of transition.

Building connections to our community is easier than it may seem. Please get involved by visiting the *Join Us* section of the Cathedral's website, www.stmatthewscathedral.org/join. If you have general ideas, please feel free to contact me at 202-347-3215 or at rjameson@stmatthewscathedral.org.



Congratulations on Ordination

On Saturday, **June 21** at 10am at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Cardinal Wuerl will ordain to the priesthood one of our parishioners, Ken Gill, along with six other men in the Archdiocese of Washington's Class of 2014. We congratulate him, pray for him and wish him well in his priestly ministry. On Sunday, **June 22**, Father Gill will celebrate a First Mass of Thanksgiving here at 11:30am. All are welcome to the Mass of Ordination at the Shrine and to the Mass of Thanksgiving.

Farewell to Heather Kinney

I recently accepted the resignation of our Faith Formation Director, Heather Kinney, who has faithfully served me and our parish community since 2009. I thank Heather for the dedication, focus and good humor that she brought to her work. After **July 18**, Heather will return to her campus ministry roots as a chaplain-in-residence at Georgetown University. Please keep Heather and her future ministry in your prayers. Your prayers also are needed for the work of the search committee that will be coming together to assist me in hiring a new Faith Formation Director for our Cathedral parish. I hope to fill the position by September 1, in time for our fall Faith Formation season of activities.

Faith Formation

Do you know someone who is interested in becoming Catholic or a Catholic who wishes to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist? Weekly Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) sessions have begun this summer. As well, a new year of our Children's Religious Education program will begin in mid-September. Information for families on how to register their school-age children for the program is available in the bulletin and on the parish website. Until **July 18**, please contact Heather Kinney at hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org with questions on RCIA or Children's Religious Education. After that date, please call the Rectory at 202-347-3215.

We are always looking for parishioners to serve as RCIA sponsors and children's catechists. Both sponsors and catechists often report how much they learned and grew in their own faith by serving in these ministries. To discuss either opportunity, please contact Heather Kinney until **July 18**, and after that date, please call the Rectory.

Social Justice and Community Services

The Social Justice Committee invites you to participate in any of the countless ministries and events under its umbrella. Please visit the Cathedral's website or pick up a bulletin to learn more about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities, such as the Summer Dinner for our homeless friends and monthly Rosary Procession in June, and in July, the Back to School Drive and our first talk on Immigration Reform and Catholic Social Teaching. Your skills and ideas are needed in planning for the Run for Vocations and our annual Health & Wellness Fair. For more information, contact Fr. Rafael Barbieri or Norma Canedo at the rectory, or send an email to socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org.

Cathedral Finances

The past few weeks have been hectic. Pam Erwin, the Cathedral's Business Manager, has the awesome responsibility of preparing next year's budget for the Finance Council. No easy task! I want to share some figures with you. First, **our offertory is slightly lower—2% lower** than last year, to be precise. Only 27% of our parishioners have given an **identifiable gift** to the parish this calendar year. (Please, bear in mind that while we welcome and are very grateful for your cash gifts in the offertory collection, we have no way of knowing that you have made a gift when you use cash!) The average contribution of 789 identifiable donors is \$19.27 each week, as shown below.

Statistical Summary

Range#	Weekly Dollar Range	Number of Contributors	% of Contributors	**Projected Annual Contributions	% of Total Contributions
1	\$0.01 - \$1.00	69	8.75	2,333.10	0.30
2	\$1.01 - \$4.00	131	16.60	16,654.57	2.11
3	\$4.01 - \$10.00	198	25.10	67,105.91	8.49
4	\$10.01 - \$20.00	156	19.77	115,591.74	14.62
5	\$20.01 - \$40.00	142	18.00	204,899.10	25.92
6	\$40.01 - \$60.00	49	6.21	129,618.84	16.40
7	\$60.01 - \$100.00	24	3.04	93,236.72	11.79
8	\$100.01 - \$150.00	15	1.90	93,310.62	11.80
9	\$150.01 - \$200.00	3	0.38	26,450.95	3.35
10	> \$200.01	2	0.25	41,323.31	5.23
		789		790,524.86	

The average contributions for each contributor are:

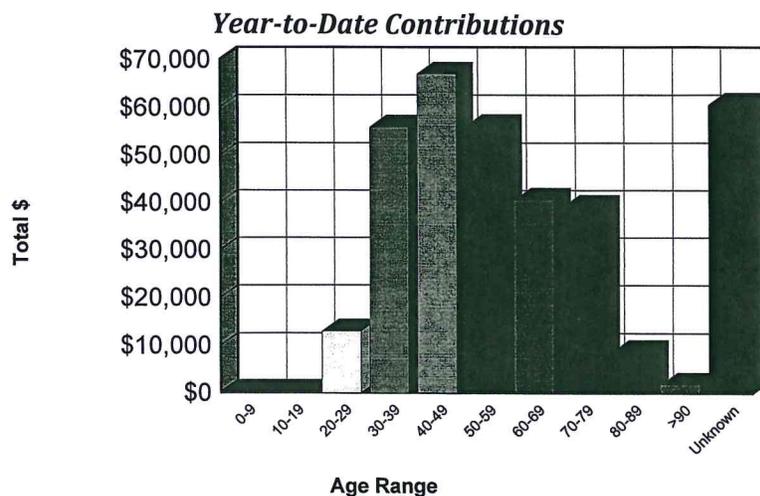
- 19.27 /week
- 83.49 /month
- 1,001.93 /Annual

***Projected Annual Contributions are calculated based on actual contributions received through 6/8/2014, which is 158 days into the contribution year.*

The projected annual amount is then 365 days divided by 158 days (2.31) times the amount contributed through 6/8/2014.

Parishioner Giving by Age Group

The chart below shows year-to-date contributions as of June 17 according to age based on weekly contributions. Very interesting!



Parish Expenses

The staff and I are in the process of projecting our needs for FY 2014-2015. The budget includes more repairs and maintenance of our physical plant. As you may have noticed, we need to replace some of the mortar between the bricks in the front steps of the Cathedral. The weather-beaten wood trim on the high windows of the Cathedral and the rectory needs painting. Much work is still needed on the N Street property, the base of operation for our English and Spanish Language programs, including repair of the water damage in the east wall, and much painting. Recent water damage in the rectory also needs repair.

Once the Finance Council reviews our FY 2014 final statistics and approves the budget for FY 2015, I will give you a much clearer report. In the meantime, **both the Finance Council and the archdiocese are concerned about our income.**

In September we will host several programs to help us to better understand stewardship principles, to bring us to a greater appreciation of how grateful we should be to God for all that he has done for us, and to encourage all to respond by returning a share of our income to the Lord in gratitude. Responding in this way means sharing not from what is left over, but rather giving the first fruits of our work, as Abel did (Genesis 4:3). May the Lord look with favor on each of us and his or her offering!

Electronic Giving

To date, the generosity of *Faith Direct* participants has kept us afloat; costs, however, continue to rise and we need the help of all. Why not determine what you can afford to donate and sign up for *Faith Direct*? It is simple and it works. Need more information? See the Cathedral's webpage on *Faith Direct* at <http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org/support/egiving>, or call Pam Erwin at 202-587-5150. We want to continue providing the best in liturgy and music, to evangelize our community, to serve the poor, and to teach the gospel message. With your help, St. Matthew's can be a beacon of hope to the central business district. Thank you for your time and talent, and your spiritual and material treasures. All things are possible with God, working through great people like you.

Please know that I am so grateful to you. You are great parishioners. Together, with your generosity, we will make this new budget work. God bless you.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer. May God bless you all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector