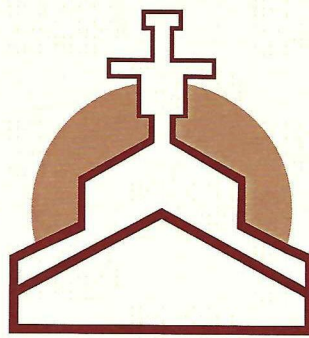




Braintree Catholic
Collaborative

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to present to you the Annual report for Saint Francis Parish and Saint Clare Parish in the Braintree Catholic Collaborative. The report depicts two parishes that are active and able to respond to the spiritual and pastoral needs who make their spiritual home here. A closer look reveals that we are living within our means, but just barely. That is to say, what we take in through the offertory each month is just about the amount it costs us to operate the parishes. I am most grateful to all of our parishioners who sacrifice to share in the financial costs of operating a parish. We are blessed with many generous benefactors! As you well know, the costs of almost everything has gone up, especially energy. Those of you who own homes know the burden of having to heat and cool your house. Given two Churches and the rectory, the costs are quite high.

This past year we were able to replace the air conditioning unit at St. Francis and have begun a renovation of the sanctuary at St. Clare. The air conditioning was paid for from OUR savings. The renovation project is through the generosity of some parishioners. In other words we did not use money from our operating budget for these important improvements.

The collaborative operates on a very tight budget. Aside from energy costs, much of our operating budget is to compensate our small staff. We would not be able to trim the budget further without directly cutting programs and services the collaborative is able to offer.

The response to last year's Grand Annual Collection was encouraging at 54% over 2023 for St. Francis of Assisi and 29% over 2023 for St. Clare. The downside is that we depend on the Grand Annual for general operating costs rather than for capital improvements, which was its original purpose. In the coming weeks, I will be writing to each family asking for its consideration of the 2025 Grand Annual Collection.

I would like to get to the point where the monthly offertory covers the expenses of the parishes. This is not a request to give more, necessarily, but to think about how you give. Would you be willing to give electronically? Simply go to the parish website and click on the button "STC Giving" or "SFA Giving" in the top right corner of the homepage. If we can increase the number of households that use this method of supporting the parish there would be a significant increase in the offertory.

If you have any questions about the report or our finances please do not hesitate to call me. Better yet, feel free to call Kevin Mercier our collaborative business manager. He loves to talk numbers!

All the numbers in the report represent many sacrifices and hard work. I am grateful to all who support the parishes regularly.

Faithfully yours in Christ,