



Braintree Catholic
Collaborative

Dear Friends:

Each September I deliver the financial report for the two parishes in our collaborative. As you will see, the numbers demonstrate parishes that are financially stable. Having said that, you will see that we are living within our means, but just barely. Those of you who own homes know the high costs of maintaining property. The same is true with the parishes.

Because of the generosity in the Grand Annual Collection we were able to take on some property improvement projects this year. St. Francis has a new roof, security cameras and sound system. St. Clare Church received a new sound system, updated kitchen and dining area in the hall and a much needed refurbishing of the outdoor stations of the cross. These were made possible through the Grand Annual Collection and savings thus allowing the offertory to be used for operating costs. If we have to use Grand Annual money for operating costs, we will be forced to use savings for capital improvements. This will leave the two parishes in a very vulnerable financial position.

The future of our financial stability lies in the way people make their offerings to the Church. In June we launched Donum, an app that allows people the option to make a financial contribution right from their smartphone. Many have started using it, though this is overall a small percentage of our parishioners. If we could get more parishioners to use it, or the option provided by the collaborative website, we would be in a far better position for the future. Given the highly mobile society we have become, relying solely on donations that come from the offertory at Mass each Sunday will have a negative financial impact in the next several years. I am trying to think long-term for both St. Francis and St. Clare parishes and am convinced that our financial security is in some form of electronic giving.

As you look over the financial report may I ask you to consider using the Donum app for your offertory to the parish. Just go to the app store on your smartphone to download Donum. To be clear, however, anyway you contribute to the parish is a big help to which I say thank you.

In the coming weeks, I will be writing to you about the Grand Annual Collection. Possibly a new bathroom for St. Clare's and the painting of the exterior of the Church for St. Francis are in our future as both are needed.

Thank you for the support you offer to either parish of the collaborative. I feel greatly privileged to be entrusted with the stewardship of the monetary sacrifice you offer. I am grateful to our business manager Kevin Mercier and the finance council for their guidance and wisdom. Their concern for parishioners is inspiring. I could not pastor the parishes without their support, and the faith that underlies it.

If you have any questions about the report, please do not hesitate to call Kevin Mercier at 781-843-3132 or by email at business@sfab.org.

Faithfully yours in Christ,