

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton News and Father Ken's Report: Winter 2009

Dear Parishioners,



Here again is our Quarterly Financial Report.

Every quarter you receive a quarterly report of your contribution report and a report on how the parish is using your Stewardship of Finances which gives me the opportunity to include a report about the finances as I see it and a report on different ministries and events. This quarter I wanted to highlight some expenses and to introduce you to some new ministerial opportunities.

I wish to thank you for your manner of giving: honestly and consistently and because of your faithful honest and consistent giving of your pledges, we have been able to keep pretty much on target with the budget.

Also, I want to compliment you on your spirituality. The manner in which you pray, come to confession, attend daily Mass is humbling. I am very proud to be your pastor. Thank you for your openness and hospitality.

Father Ken

Some Expenses...did you know?

Here are some expenses that perhaps you were unaware that we pay. In the Stewardship Way of Life we do not give to a need, but it is also the mark of a good steward to understand where the money is being used:

Did you know???

- We are paying Special Taxes on the frontage road of Central Street of around \$1,900.00 a year;
- Our property insurance is around \$53,000.00 a year;
- Textbook bill to date for our parochial grade school is \$66,000.00;
- Our contribution to the Priest Retirement and Seminarian Education Fund (PREF), \$40,000.00;
- To paint some in the parish office, \$200.00;
- The effort the many volunteer painters from the parish working: PRICELESS!

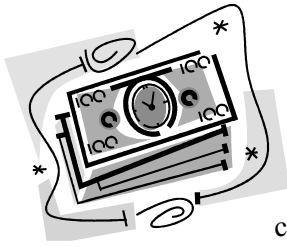
Pastoral Council

We have formed a new council. About one third of the members rotate on and off each year. The purpose of the council is to be consultative to the pastor. Through prayer, the Pastoral Council is to be visionary, looking at the mission of the parish and long range goals.

One of the first items on our new agenda is to decide a direction for pastoral priorities. In the last quarterly newsletter I shared with you what the leaders of the parish saw as challenges. Challenges such as the largeness of the parish; our need/desire to serve the poor; living as a Christian in a secular society.

The new Pastoral Council will either tackle these challenges or perhaps complete a more comprehensive study of our needs.

Thank you members who are leaving: you were very important during this transition in helping me get my feet on the ground and to begin ministry here!

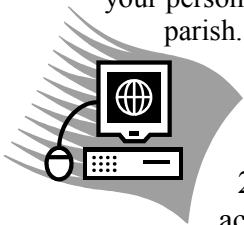


Financial Update:

In spite of many challenges and changes, our finances are looking healthy, although in need of constant and vigilant monitoring.

I promised you to be a good steward of what you have entrusted to me. I will keep a very close eye on expenses while fulfilling our mission; maintain the beautiful facility; and keep good communication with you.

Thank you for your trust and please review your personal report and the report of the parish. Let me know if you have any questions.



Pornography

20% of men admit to accessing pornography at work...47% of Christians say pornography is a major problem at home. Unfortunately we are not immune to this sin at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. If you are having problems with pornography know there is help. Please contact me (316) 721-1686, or e-mail me at kvanhaverbeke@seaswichita.com.

Getting More Out of Mass

Many of you attend the daily Mass with our parish grade school and lately I have been working with the children on how to get more out of the Mass.

Here is a short list of some suggestions of how to prepare for the Mass:

1. Prepare for Mass by getting to Mass early; that means before the priest walks down the aisle;
2. Prepare for Mass by going to the restroom so you are comfortable and not interrupting yourself or others! There is a parade of children, back and forth, back and forth during Mass to go get a drink or to go to the bathroom. This parade never occurs during the school Masses only on Sundays...I wonder why?
3. Prepare for Mass by reading the readings for the Mass, and then putting the missal away to listen to the readings proclaimed at Mass. I am having the 7th and 8th graders read the readings on Monday of each week, then on Friday, they write down some ideas of what I should preach on. Some fantastic ideas!

Separation and divorce can be two of the most difficult events in an adult's life. It is sometimes particularly difficult for Catholics.

Pope John Paul II said "I earnestly call upon pastors and the whole community of the faithful to help the divorced, and with solicitous care to make sure that they do not consider themselves as separated from the Church, for as baptized persons they can, and indeed must, share in her life." ([Familiaris Consortio](#), #84).

I would like to address this pastoral need. If you are divorced or separated, would you be willing to give me a call? Perhaps if there is enough interest, we can gather as a group to pray and talk as a group. Father Ken