



Stewardship Pledge Appeal 2018/2019

Holy Name of Jesus-St. Gregory the Great Parish

Holy Name of Jesus – St. Gregory the Great Franciscan Friars



3 September 2018

As a ten-year-old, in a moment of family transition, I remember my father telling me, “No matter how prepared you are, you are never ready.” I think his words bear the truth of the past twelve months here, at Holy Name - St. Gregory. If last year was a year of change, then this was a year of transition. In the past twelve months, both St. Gregory School and Church were closed, the Franciscan Community Center was fully absorbed into our parish ministry, and the Thrift Shop activities are suspended pending mandated facade repairs. All the while, we have continued to serve the poor, advocate for immigrants, provide food for the hungry and continue to form the Living Body of Christ as an optimistic and prayerful community of faith.

While the changes were anticipated, the effects of the transition have been deeper than expected. As you will see, our overall parish membership is smaller and the number of sacraments administered was less. Yet, we paid our active Archdiocesan debt in full! We welcomed Shaare Zedek Jewish community to our campus. We fed and cared for more people in our neighborhood, Puerto Rico and around the world. We rebuilt our front steps and have remained a place of welcome and serenity in days of turmoil and anxiety.

Sometimes Stewardship is about enduring hard transitions and becoming stronger. I think that is what we have done in the past year, and we will continue to do so.

As we begin the 2018 Stewardship Appeal, please take a moment to read our Annual Report --- and actively reflect upon who we are and what we have done. Next, allow your mind and heart to realize what you have to be grateful for, and then consider what you might contribute to our community.

We will share more information about the Stewardship Appeal in the coming weeks and during the masses on September 22-23, you will have the opportunity to make your pledge to gospel living.

I speak for the Friars, the Sisters and the Staff of Holy Name-St. Gregory when I say how grateful we are for your dedication to our community of faith. May the Lord’s peace be with you all!

Yours sincerely,



(Rev.) Lawrence D. Ford, OFM
Pastor & Guardian



PARISH CENSUS AND SACRAMENTAL LIFE

In this space last year we talked about our parish expansion through merger; a year later we have a truer insight into our parish membership and sacramental activity. We now number 2,231 registered parish households, which is 299 fewer than a year ago. Some of this is due to a “cleaning up” of our parish roster and it reflects the changing dynamic of our neighborhood. During the course of the year, we baptized 80 children, and in May, 26 children received their First Eucharist. During a March nor’easter, Puerto Rico’s Archbishop Roberto Gonzalez, OFM conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation upon 24 of our adolescents. Our evangelization efforts further included the Confirming of 17 adults, half of whom received the Eucharist for the first time and three of whom were welcomed through Baptism at the Easter Vigil.

We are a community of mercy and healing, as we celebrated more than 150 hours of sacramental reconciliation and shared the Sacrament of the Sick with roughly 65 of our infirm members, in addition to many others who participated in our four anointing services throughout the year. In addition, six weddings were performed here and another nine couples were prepared for the Sacrament of Marriage celebrated around the world. As a community of living faith, we pray for the dead. We celebrated 58 masses of Christian burial and more than a dozen memorial services.

Our Parish staff has also changed significantly: we mourn the deaths of Fr. Michael McDonnell, OFM and Br. Gary Maciag, OFM; and we lost Fr. Lorenzo Hayes, OFM to New Jersey. We have been strengthened by the additions of Fr. John Heffernan, OFM and Fr. Barry Langley, OFM to our community and Mr. Steven Pace to the newly created position of Director of Parish Operations. And we experienced both the “comings-and-goings” of Br. Abraham Joseph, OFM and Br. Juan de la Cruz Turcios, OFM. **Congratulations, Brother Abraham upon your Solemn Profession! *Félicitations frère Abraham pour votre profession solennelle!***

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The Adult Faith Formation Committee again sponsored a variety of programs including our Lenten Vespers, and the RCIA programs, Spanish and English Bible study on the Psalms, the Book of Revelation and a discussion of Richard Rohr, OFM's book on the Trinity. We also held classes on Conscience Formation and Advent Gospel Insights. We welcomed the return of the Threshold Singers.

JUSTICE, PEACE & INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Our JPIC activities included the Helping Hands food packaging event (40,000 meals), the introduction of the JoyJ homeless outreach (300 comfort bags), "Know Your Rights" immigration training sessions, Electronic Recycling, our political awareness letter writing campaigns, and a movie series regarding the Environment and Climate Change.



The JoyJ Initiative

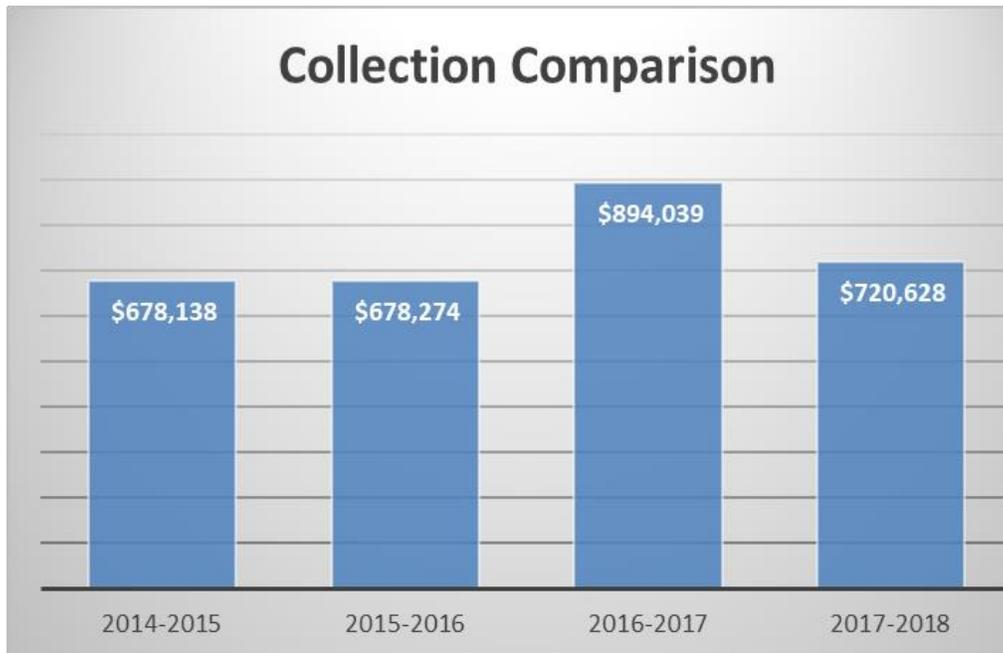
CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

Our Religious Education programs for children provide the faith formation and spiritual development of children from kindergarten through the ninth grades. Children are prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist in the third grade and for Confirmation in the ninth grade. Last year 165 children were enrolled and about 20 "preschoolers" participated in Children's Liturgy of the Word during the seasons of Advent and Lent.



COLLECTION COMPARISON

This graph is a bit misleading. The fiscal year 2016-17 is an anomaly. That year we operated two churches, each with a collection income. While our collection did drop last year, we were prepared for this and budgeted accordingly. It is important to note that our collections increased appreciably from three years ago. This reflects your intention and commitment to our parish community and demonstrates that we are good stewards. Again this year, we should be encouraged by what we have done and inspired to continue our good work. Thank You!



PARISH TREASURE

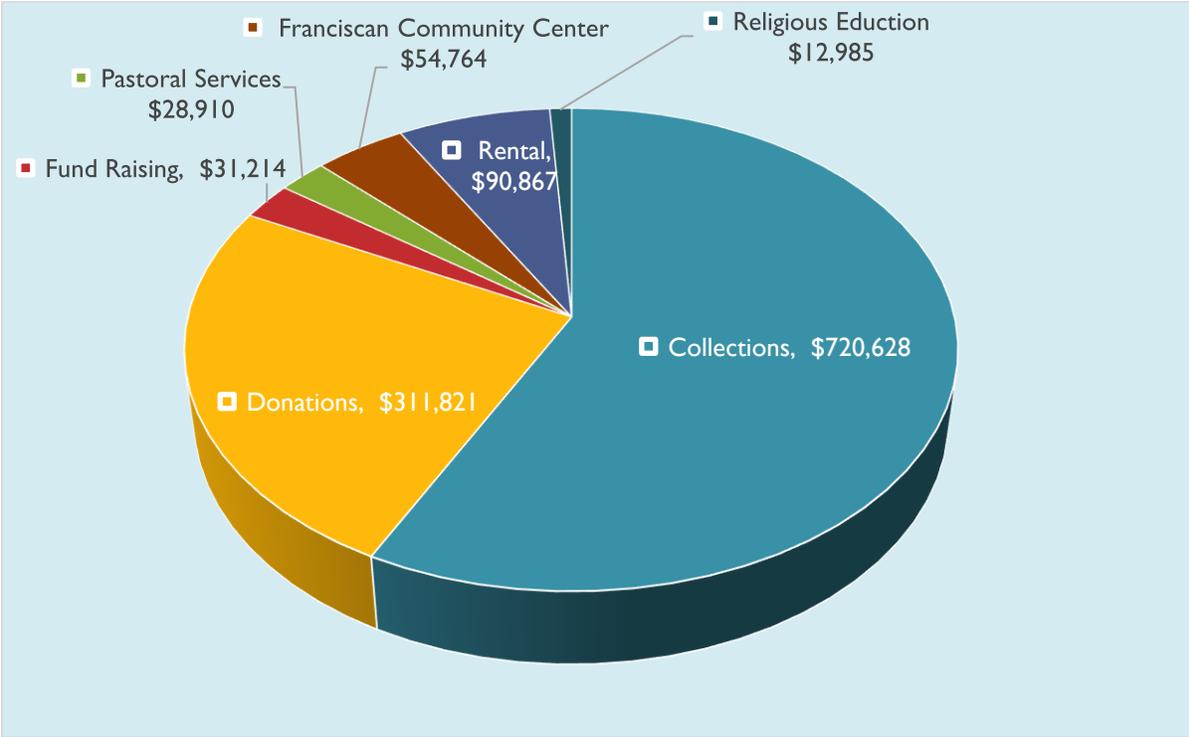
A hallmark of stewardship is a prayerful and planned response to God's unending generosity. To strengthen our stewardship at Holy Name-St. Gregory, we offer two primary methods to financially contribute. The first and most efficient and encouraged method is to register at **ParishPay/WeShare** [www.paritypay.com/nonprofit/login.html?pc=95p8dh86]; or to call the **ParishPay/WeShare** Customer Service Center at (800) 950-9952. At this link you can verify a pre-existing account and establish a new one. You can donate using your credit/debit card or via direct debit from your bank account. You will then be certain the parish receives your contributions even when you are away on vacation or business; thereby, helping us with our planning and budgeting. Using ParishPay/WeShare will allow you to plan and schedule your recurring contribution and make one-time donations. Further it eliminates writing that long parish name (Holy Name of Jesus-St. Gregory the Great) and ensures an accurate annual contribution statement for tax purposes. The second more traditional method is to request to receive weekly contribution envelopes through the Parish office. We currently provide 448 families with contribution envelopes, of which 180 are used on a weekly basis. Therefore, on this year's Stewardship Pledge Card, we are asking those who currently receive envelopes to confirm your desire to continue to do so.

In spite of some technical difficulties, while changing to new ownership, our ParishPay/WeShare registered usage remained consistent: 158 registered users as compared to 161 last year. Our active users jumped by 25%, from 105 to 132. Electronic giving accounted for 24% of last year's collection total. The ParishPay/WeShare option is an important option for your consideration. This is a very good time for those not yet using ParishPay/WeShare to consider doing so, and for those who are to review your account and gift.

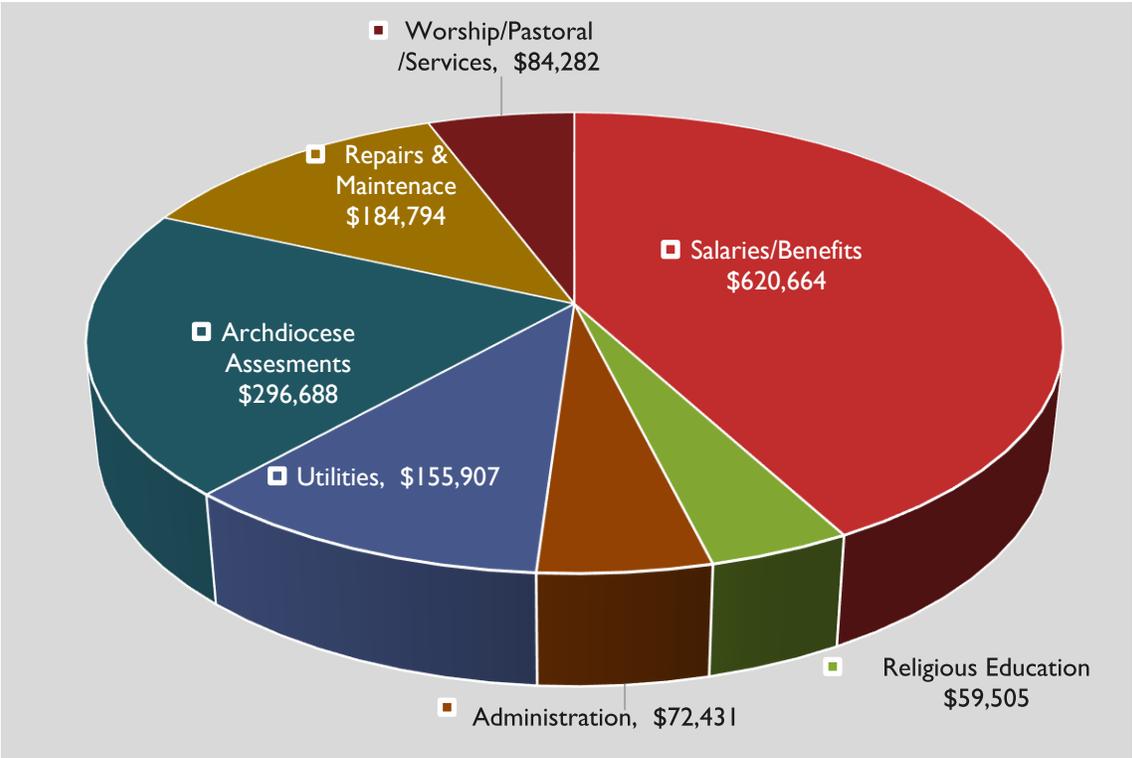
ELEVEN-MONTH ANNUAL REPORT

September 2017 - July 2018

Income: \$1,251,169



Expenses: \$1,474,024



PARISH STANDING, ARCHDIOCESAN SUPPORT and CARDINAL'S APPEAL

As the accompanying chart reveals, we operated at a deficit of \$222,855. This is an improvement from last year's \$675,000 deficit, which becomes more impressive as it takes into account the operating and closing costs of St. Gregory's building and the unoccupied HNJ School building. It also includes the operating deficit of the Franciscan Community Center. This improvement was accomplished through careful monitoring of our expenses and buoyed by the parish reserves created through the sale of two parish buildings, two and three years ago. Our remaining reserves continue to be invested in a secure and interest-bearing account with the Archdiocese.

At the same time, we repaid the Archdiocese \$2.7 million of debt. Further, we paid our ADNY annual assessment of \$100,000 and supported Catholic schools with an additional \$80,000. We have contributed \$52,000 toward this year's Cardinal's Appeal goal of \$148,000. This year's Appeal was abridged because we were originally scheduled to participate in the Archdiocesan Renew + Rebuild Capital Campaign. We are preparing to participate in the Capital Campaign this year.

In the past three years we have experienced many changes (spiritual and emotional, practical and financial) that were unanticipated and for which we were not prepared. Nonetheless, because of the **time, talent and treasure** of all of us, we have remained generous, endured some adversity and become stronger stewards. We are now more ready for the future.

FRANCISCAN COMMUNITY CENTER

St. Francis Thrift Store: As you know, the Thrift Store was closed for mandated repairs in March. This was heartbreaking news and continues to be a hardship on the parish and neighborhood. We have been working with consultants, engineers and the City to resolve the issue. The actual remedial work will be completed in September and we hope to have the City's response to our reopening by October.

Food Program: The importance of our Food Pantry exploded this year! We provided more than 150 tons of food, twice what we did last year. On a monthly basis we help some 450 families (adults with children or Senior parents) and an additional 450 adult or Senior individuals. Our clients continue to be able to "shop" for healthy foods of their preference from fruits & vegetables, grains, dairy, and proteins. Our sandwich line, offered twice a week, has again doubled the number of meals provided, currently averaging 375 meals per week.

Social Services: Additionally, the Social Services Referral program continues to assist hundreds of individuals and families in a variety of social services ranging from assistance with housing, social security, food stamp benefits, obtaining medical insurance, and life-event counseling. We continue to provide services to nearly 900 seniors through a partnership with One Stop at JASA and have a growing following of individual and family therapy clients through our partnership with Harlem Family Institute.

It has been a trying couple of years for the Franciscan Community Center as its independence was lost and its purpose has been folded into our parish ministry. We have reduced staff while deepening services provided to the poor and the hungry. We have welcomed the Shaare Zedek Jewish Community and the Christian Church of New York as renters and fellow worshipers to our campus, and we continue to be a place of gathering for many in our parish and neighborhood. We were unprepared for the sad surprise of the Thrift Store's shuttered doors, and there is no getting around the ministerial and financial burden that has imposed. Yet our staff and volunteers have rallied to continue to meet the increasing needs of the poor and help us ready ourselves for what comes next.

“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”

Francis of Assisi

WEEKLY OFFERTORY GIFT CHART

Many Christians use the “biblical tithe” of 10% to plan their charitable giving, committing 5% to their local church and the remainder to the charities of their choice. **Please consider increasing your gift to the parish.** One small step by each household will have a significant impact on the ability of our parish to carry out its mission.

Weekly Offertory Contribution							
Yearly Household Income							Biblical Tithe
	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	10%
\$5,000	\$1	\$2	\$3	\$4	\$5	\$6	\$10
\$10,000	\$2	\$4	\$6	\$8	\$10	\$12	\$20
\$20,000	\$4	\$8	\$12	\$16	\$20	\$24	\$40
\$30,000	\$6	\$12	\$18	\$24	\$30	\$36	\$60
\$40,000	\$8	\$16	\$24	\$32	\$40	\$48	\$80
\$50,000	\$10	\$20	\$30	\$40	\$50	\$60	\$100
\$60,000	\$12	\$24	\$36	\$48	\$60	\$72	\$120
\$70,000	\$14	\$28	\$42	\$56	\$70	\$84	\$140
\$80,000	\$16	\$32	\$48	\$64	\$80	\$96	\$160
\$90,000	\$18	\$36	\$54	\$72	\$90	\$108	\$180
\$100,000	\$20	\$40	\$60	\$80	\$100	\$120	\$200
\$150,000	\$30	\$60	\$90	\$120	\$150	\$180	\$300
\$200,000	\$40	\$80	\$120	\$160	\$200	\$240	\$400

WHAT IS YOUR GIVING GOAL?

As stewards of the gifts that God has given us, we are all called upon to give back something to our parish.

Please use the Commitment Card that you received in the mail to reflect your increased weekly offertory to Holy Name- St. Gregory. Remember to bring your card to Mass on our upcoming annual Commitment Weekend (Sept. 22 & 23).

Our Growing Community



LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH!

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT HOLY NAME

If you are interested in contributing your time and talent to one of the following ministries, please call for more information.

ADMINISTRATION

FINANCE COUNCIL <i>Fr. Larry Ford, OFM</i>	212-749-0276
PARISH OPERATIONS <i>Mr. Steve Pace</i>	212-749-0276, ext. 113
COLLECTION COUNTERS <i>Pat Friel</i>	212-662-9459
WEBSITE <i>Parish Office</i>	212-749-0276

MINISTRIES

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS <i>Mary V. Widhalm</i>	212-866-6797
RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (Spanish) <i>Fr. John Heffernan, OFM</i>	212-749-0276
RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (French) <i>Deacon Andre Alexandre</i>	212-749-0276
CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION <i>Veronica Soto</i>	212-749-0276
ADULT FAITH FORMATION <i>Anne McCormick</i>	212-724-1885
STEWARDSHIP <i>Mike Archer</i>	212-579-7868
JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION <i>Julia McGinnity</i>	917-400-0491

LITURGICAL MINISTRY

MUSIC MINISTRY <i>Peter Adamczyk</i>	212-749-0276
LITURGICAL COORDINATORS	
5:30 <i>Marianne Devirgiliis</i>	212-280-2671
9:00 <i>Frances Tome</i>	212-865-8538
10:30 <i>Sr. Maria-Teresa, FMM</i>	212-749-0276
12:00 <i>Anne McCormick</i>	212-724-1885
1:30 <i>Andre Alexandre</i>	212-749-0276
5:30 <i>Pat Friel</i>	212-662-9459
ALTAR SERVERS/USHERS	
LITURGY COMMITTEE	
CHURCH ENVIRONMENT <i>Fr. Larry Ford, OFM</i>	212-749-0276

SPIRITUAL & PASTORAL CARE

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION <i>Fr. Barry Langley, OFM</i>	212-749-0276
MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND <i>Fr. John Heffernan, OFM</i>	212-749-0276
BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY <i>Ms. Barbara Burns</i>	212-749-0276

ORGANIZATIONS / GROUPS / SOCIETIES

CONTEMPORARY ADULTS <i>Colette Prophet</i>	917-744-7254
SECULAR FRANCISCANS (English) <i>Peggy Ledger</i>	212-535-2432
PROVIDENCIA <i>Victoria Velazquez</i>	212-662-7505
ALTAGRACIA <i>Melania Cosme-Rivas</i>	646-245-3115
SACRED HEART <i>Iris Real</i>	212-666-3040
GUADALUPE <i>Irene Chavez</i>	212-678-5080
GRUPO GUADALUPANO <i>Cathy Martinez</i>	973-392-3892
MAMAN MARIE <i>Mimi Simon</i>	212-932-7653
LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP (Filipino) <i>Veronica Rosario</i>	212-865-1623
FRENCH PRAYER GROUP <i>Deacon Andre Alexandre</i>	212-749-0276
SPANISH CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP <i>Maribel Nunez</i>	646-353-8680
CENTERING PRAYER GROUP <i>Georgetta Richards</i>	212-222-5729

FRANCISCAN COMMUNITY CENTER

SOCIAL SERVICES ~ THRIFT STORE ~ FOOD PANTRY ~ SANDWICH LINE <i>Christina Fermin</i>	212-932-8040
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OUR STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Lord God, hear our every prayer. We know that it is from your hand that we have received all that we have and are and will be. You call us to be stewards of your abundance, care takers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. We pray with grateful hearts in Jesus' name. Amen





Holy Name of Jesus-St. Gregory the Great
207 West 96th Street, New York, NY 10025