

# SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

4700 LONG BEACH BOULEVARD | BRANT BEACH, NJ 0800

## 2022 Annual State of the Parish Report

November 2022

To my dear brothers and sisters,

I am very happy to share with you a State of the Parish Report for Fiscal Year 2022. In addition to a complete financial statement, this brochure will give you a glimpse of our parish's vibrancy and resilience. We celebrate the Sacraments. We minister within our community and beyond. We proclaim and live the Gospel. We are growing. Despite the setback from Covid, all signs show that we are on the way back! And, we have some important news to ensure the health of St. Francis of Assisi Parish into the future. Let's start with our finances.

Last year, on the Feast of Christ the King, the Parish Finance Council and I presented to you the *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 2020-21*. I am most grateful that these past two years ended on a positive note; however, there is need for some clarification. The 2020-21 surplus was a result of your incredible response to our 2021 *Christmas Giving Fund* [\$317,000.] This year, our surplus was again helped by the 2022 *Christmas Giving Fund* [\$245,899,] but, primarily because we received two \$100,000 bequests and a large estate settlement of \$474,000. *[This estate settlement was set up when Fr. Andrew was the pastor, so we need to thank him for his careful stewardship and planning.]*

When you review the Financial Statement, you will see that without the 2022 *Christmas Giving Fund* and the bequests, we would have had a deficit this past fiscal of \$383,090.00. Bequests are greatly appreciated but we cannot count on them when we do our fiscal planning. Ideally, bequests would be put toward capital expenses rather than the day-to-day operation of the parish.

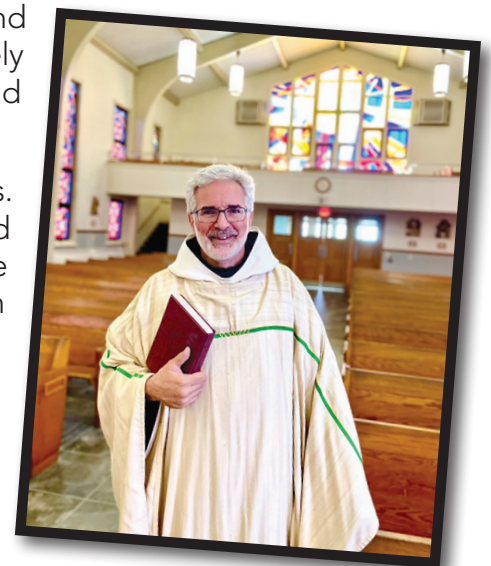
It has become obvious to me and the Parish Finance Council that our weekly collections and our regular fundraisers are not enough to meet our annual expenses. To address our immediate and long-term needs the Parish Finance Council and I have created a twofold plan. We will launch a Stewardship Program in the Spring of 2023 that is designed to increase volunteer and financial commitment to our Parish. We will also establish an endowment from the sale of three properties on the Island that we no longer use. A professionally managed endowment will generate funds and will be used for major repairs and capital improvements. We are genuinely enthusiastic that Stewardship and this endowment will ensure a healthy and even more vibrant parish into the future.

I thank you for your faithfulness, continuous generosity, and your goodness. We do have some heavy burdens ahead of us, but they are nothing compared to what we have already seen. I have great confidence that God's grace will carry us forward and that with your help we will establish a solid path forward for the next generation of believers.

May God continue to bless you and your families with Peace and All Good!



Fr. Francis J. Di Spigno, OFM  
Pastor



# OUR PARISH IN 2021-22

**2,677**

Registered Families  
203 Newly Registered

**1,759**

Envelope and On-Line  
Donors, plus non-envelope  
and thousands of Summer  
visitor donors.

**425**

Total Weekend Masses  
Annually: 16/Weekend in  
Summer at 4 churches  
and 4/weekend in Winter  
at 1 church

**42**

Active Ministries  
with 964 Volunteers

## *What a busy year for Sacramental Ministry!*

- Baptisms ..... 101
- First Communions ..... 22
- Confirmations ..... 23
- Rite of Christian Adult Initiations ..... 4
- Weddings ..... 26
- Funerals ..... 59



## *Our Successful Fundraising Community Events*

- Festival of the Sea .....August 2021
- Spaghetti Dinner .....September 2021
- 5 Car Raffle ..... October 2021
- Beef Steak Dinner .....December 2021
- Lenten Fish Fry ..... March 2022
- Annual Fashion Show .....June 2022
- We enthusiastically support the 18 Mile Run, Food Pantry and all services of the St Francis Center:
  - Recreation and Aquatics
  - Education and Career
  - Counseling
  - Children's Pre-School and Child Care
  - Family Support
  - Senior Services

The St. Francis Center is fiscally independent of St. Francis of Assisi Parish.



# Questions and Answers

## Stewardship and Endowment to Secure our parish future

**Tell us a little more about Stewardship.** As Father Fran states, Stewardship encourages parishioners to get more involved in the care and life of their parish. Stewards believe that all gifts come from God, that they should accept them gratefully, use them responsibly and share them generously. Stewardship asks parishioners to give their Time, Talent as well as Treasure to support their parish. In effect, parishioners are being asked to take ownership of the parish!

**What are some of the major repairs and capital improvements that are required?** For starters, four of our buildings, including two of our churches, desperately need new roofs, which will cost around \$450,000. Three of the Churches with brick facades need repointing. All four should be tested for structural stability. Rugs need replacing, sound systems are being updated, and the south entrance to the Brant Beach needs a foyer.

**Where are the three properties that are for sale?** There is a tear-down house and vacant lot in Surf City and the former St. Thomas of Aquinas Church on a good sized lot in Beach Haven.

**When will the Endowment be established?** The properties were put on the market in October. The sales will be announced as soon as the contracts are signed and executed. Note that when we close on a property, we must satisfy a \$ 2,500,000 debt to the Diocese.

**What? How did we build up such a huge debt?** For many years we did not pay our annual assessments because our Offertory collections were inadequate. First priority was to meet our operating expenses. The good news is that we will be able to settle our debt with a one-time payment of \$750,000, thanks to the Trenton Diocese which truly understands our needs!

**About Stewardship, why wait until Spring?** We could implement it now but decided to wait until our other churches start to fill up again. We're sure you'll agree that in the Spring we'll engage more Snowbirds, weekend owners and visitors, as well as our loyal year-round parishioners.

**Why has the Offertory been inadequate?** There are many reasons, e.g., our year-round population, our core donors, has declined steadily over the years. Also on LBI, one week summer renters are now the norm; we cannot expect them to become as committed to SFA as the one month and season renters of the past. There are many national trends and other local demographic changes that are having a negative impact on the Offertory collections. We are confident that when they are explained more fully in the Spring, we will begin to solve our annual budget problems. Our parishioners are very generous. We are confident that they will respond enthusiastically.





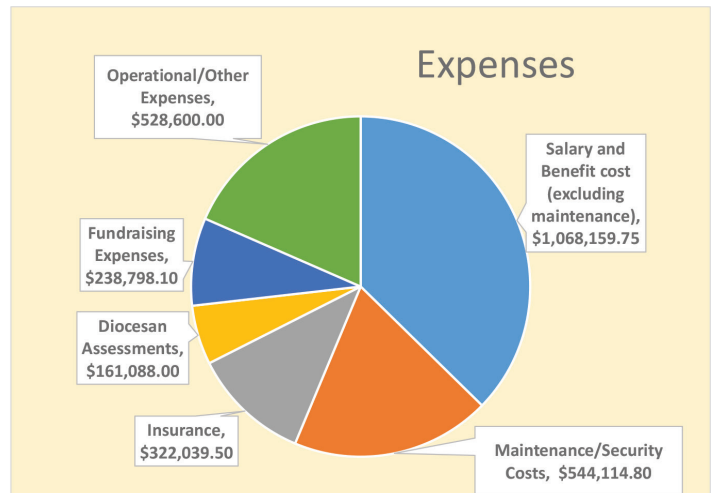
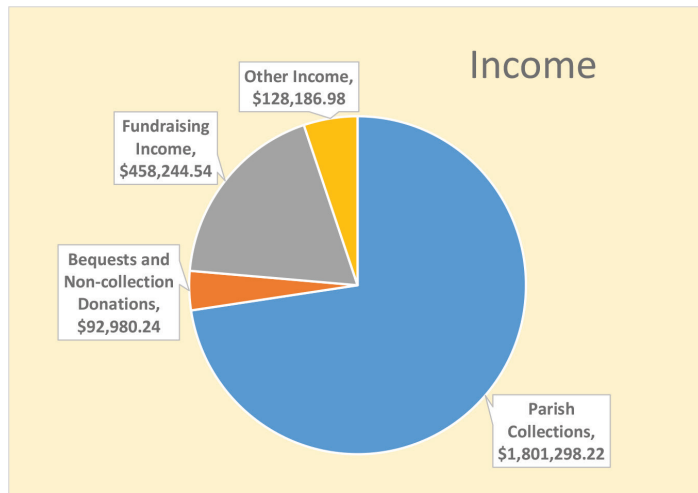
# Annual Financial Statement: Fiscal Year 2021/2022

## Net Income Loss

## Unexpected Income

	2022	6/30/22
	Budgeted	Actual
<b>Income</b>		
Parish Collections	\$1,832,700.00	\$1,801,298.22
Bequests and Non-collection Donations	\$111,000.00	\$92,980.24
Fundraising Income	1 \$430,000.00	\$458,244.54
Other Income	2 \$ 132,075.00	\$ 128,186.98
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$2,505,775.00</b>	<b>\$2,480,709.98</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Salary and Benefit cost (excluding maintenance)	3 \$1,020,530.18	\$1,068,159.75
Maintenance/Security Costs	4 \$489,446.82	\$544,114.80
Insurance	5 \$248,704.00	\$322,039.50
Diocesan Assessments	\$161,088.00	\$ 161,088.00
Fundraising Expenses	\$223,200.00	\$238,798.10
Operational/Other Expenses	6 \$523,003.00	\$528,600.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$2,665,972.00</b>	<b>\$2,862,800.15</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(LOSS)</b>	<b>\$(160,197.00)</b>	<b>\$(382,090.17)</b>

Unexpected Income		
Special Christmas Collection		\$ 245,899.00
Bequest estate settlement (to be used in part to start an endowment fund)		\$ 474,000.00
Two large bequests		\$ 200,000.00
<b>NET INCOME/(LOSS) after items</b>	<b>\$ (160,197.00)</b>	<b>\$ 537,808.83</b>
<b>Footnotes</b>		
1 Fundraising income includes Car raffle, Festival of the Sea, Spaghetti dinner, Fish n Chip Dinners, Beefsteak dinners, and the Fashion Show.		
2 Other income includes baptisms, weddings, funerals, religious education tuition, faith to move mountains rebate, flower donations, poor box, votives, bulletin royalties, etc.		
3 Salaries and Benefits cover 16 full-time (4 friars, 1 religious sister, directors, coordinators, parish office and accounting) and 27-30 part-time employees (cantors, musicians, deacons, summer priests, religious ed staff, receptionists) and contributes to a portion of the center's executive director's salary. Benefits (including payroll taxes, medical, pension, and 403b) represent 31% of this total.		
4 Maintenance/Security costs include salaries and benefits for 6 full-time and 5 part-time employees, cleaning and repairs, maintenance of buildings, and equipment, care of grounds, maintenance service contracts.		
5 Insurance includes property and liability, flood insurance, boiler/chiller insurance and worker's compensation.		
6 Operational/Other include materials and supplies for the daily operations of the parish (office, music, religious, altar, technology, advertising, non diocesan collection expense, utilities, bank fees, etc.).		



## Ways to Support:



**MAIL**

4700 Long Beach Blvd,  
Brant Beach, NJ 08008



**ONLINE**

Visit our website to give electronically  
at [www.stfrancisparishlbi.org/donate](http://www.stfrancisparishlbi.org/donate)

SCAN TO  
DONATE!



## Connect with Us

MARIE AT PARISH OFFICE: 609-494-8861  
[WWW.STFRANCISPARISHLBI.ORG](http://WWW.STFRANCISPARISHLBI.ORG)

SCAN THIS CODE  
TO REGISTER  
WITH OUR  
PARISH!

