



St. Thomas Aquinas Church c. 1935

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

4700 Long Beach Boulevard, Brant Beach, NJ 08008

2023 Annual Parish Report

November 26, 2023

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Greetings of Peace and All Good brothers and sisters of St. Francis of Assisi Parish!

“Grace is favor, the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God, adoptive sons [and daughters,] partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life. Grace is a participation in the life of God. It introduces [us] into the intimacy of Trinitarian life: by Baptism the Christian participates in the grace of Christ, the Head of his Body...They receive the life of the Spirit who breaths charity into [them] and who forms the Church. [Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1996-1997]

I am very happy to share with you the 2023 Annual Parish Report. Looking back over the past year I can say that it has been a graced-filled year. We not only celebrated the Sacraments; we lived the Sacraments. We celebrated Eucharist and we remembered that we are the Body of Christ. We encountered Grace.

As a community of faith, we mourned the dead and we baptized new members into the Body of Christ. We witnessed the profession of covenantal love in the Sacrament of Matrimony and we lived Christian love as we visited the sick and homebound, fed the hungry, and cared for our brothers and sisters in need. We have prayed for peace in times of war and we have been that peace for so many who came to St. Francis to find refuge, sanctuary, and healing. We have been that place that shows the world that God exists and is with us right now, here on Long Beach Island, in our corner of Paradise.

The report illustrates some of the data points of our accomplishments over this past year. However, we must look back a bit further to truly appreciate some of our recent successes. Actually, we must look back 138 years.

According to the parish's history, priests came from Camden or Philadelphia to celebrate Mass in private homes as early as 1885. Eight years later, on July 9, 1893, Fr. Thomas Healy, “founded, organized, purchased the land, and assumed charge of the mission, St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Beach Haven. He purchased land for \$450 and proceeded to build the first church, “with its furnishings” for \$475.55. Six years later, on Sunday, June 11, 1899, Fr. A. Fasonotti, in charge of the mission at that time, laid the cornerstone for a new church on the corner of Beach Ave. and 4th Street in Beach Haven, NJ. [cf. picture above.] The construction of that church cost \$4,000. This served as the mission church for over 60 years and eventually became known as “Central Supply,” the parish's storage facility, for almost another 60 years. This year the parish sold the property and building for almost 2.1 million dollars.

A mission chapel of St. Thomas of Villanova in Surf City was built one year prior, in 1898 through the generosity of a Philadelphian, Thomas Callahan. In 1964, the parish was able to obtain a small house and the adjacent parcel of land for \$16,500. This year the parish sold the house and the adjacent lot for almost 3.1 million dollars. After the closing fees and other expenses, settling an outstanding debt to the diocese, at a bit less than 25 cents on the dollar thanks to the generosity of the bishop, as well as tackling a few necessary projects, like replacing the roof on St. Francis Church, the parish has created an investment portfolio of just over 4 million dollars.

It has been a very good year for us, but we cannot forget that we do stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. The two crosses that were perched atop the old St. Thomas Aquinas Church have been retained by the parish. One of the crosses will be incorporated into a memorial to our ancestors in faith and will be placed in front of the present St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Beach Haven. Our Catholic tradition teaches us that our community of faith extends beyond ourselves and remains connected to the communion of saints. This memorial allows us to remember that our community remains connected to those faithful Catholics who first settled on Long Beach Island. It will also stand to remind us that we are building the future of the Catholic church for those who will come after us.

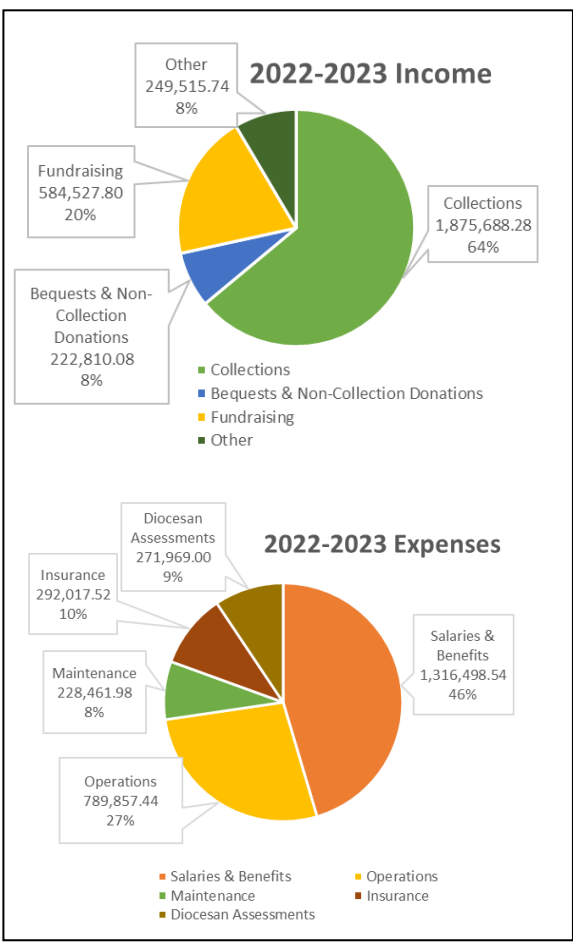
If you would like to read more about our parish's history, please visit our website at www.stfrancisparishlbi.org/parish-history.

May the grace of God continue to enliven us, inspire us, and encourage us to boldly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Fr. Francis J. Di Spigno, OFM
Pastor

2022-2023 Has Been a Wonderful Year for our Parish

Revenue/Expenses Fiscal Year Ending	6/30/2022	6/30/2023
	Actual	Actual
Income		
Collections	1,801,298.22	1,875,688.28
Bequests and Non-collection Donations	92,980.24	222,810.08
Fundraising	458,244.54	584,527.80
Other	128,186.98	249,515.74
Total Income	2,480,709.98	2,932,541.90
Expenses		
Salaries & Benefits	1,448,697.38	1,316,498.54
Operations	752,133.10	789,857.44
Maintenance	163,577.17	228,461.98
Insurance	322,039.50	292,017.52
Diocesan Assessments	176,353.00	271,969.00
Total Expenses	2,862,800.15	2,898,804.48
Net Income/(Loss)	(382,090.17)	33,737.42
Extraordinary Income/Expenses	FY 2022	FY 2023
Extraordinary Bequests	674,000.00	
Christmas Special Collections	245,899.00	
Gain on Sale of Properties		4,813,770.61
Diocese acceptance of unpaid assessments valued at 2.8 million		(750,000.00)
Total Extraordinary Income	919,899.00	4,063,770.61
Net Income + Extraordinary	537,808.83	4,097,508.03



Footnotes

1 Fundraising: Car Raffle; FOS; Dinners: Spaghetti, Fish n Chip, Beefsteak, & Fashion Show.

2 Donations from baptisms, weddings, funerals, religious education tuition, faith to move mountains rebate, Christmas and Easter flowers, poor box, votive candles, bulletin royalties, etc.

3 Salaries & Benefits: 22 FTE (3 Friars, 1 Religious Sister, Directors/Coordin., Parish Office, Accounting, Maintenance) and 28-30 PTE (Cantors, Musicians, Deacons, Summer Priests, Rel. Ed staff, Recepts., Center's Ex. Dir. [partial.] Benefits: payroll taxes, medical, pension, & 403b are 33% of total.

4 Maintenance/Security costs include cleaning and repairs, maintenance of buildings, equipment, grounds, service contracts.

5 Insurance: Property, Liability, Flood, Boiler/Chiller & Worker's Comp.

6 Every year the Diocese assesses the parish \$175,000 and a Catholic School Assessment of about \$120,000. The Annual Catholic Appeal is a separate fundraiser for the Diocese. The donations to the ACA are not directed to our annual Parish or School assessments.

Some Accomplishments this Year

- 58 Baptisms
- 28 First Holy Communions
- 30 Confirmed
- 25 Couples Celebrated the Sacrament of Matrimony
- 58 Funerals



- Only 1% increase in expenses
- 27% of our registered parishioners returned the Stewardship Treasure card.
- \$33,737.42 Year End Operating Balance
- \$4 million Endowment Established

Ways to Support Your Parish

Mailing Address: St. Francis of Assisi Parish
4700 Long Beach Blvd.
Brant Beach, NJ 08008



Scan to donate

You can give a one time gift online as well as sign up to automatically contribute your weekly donation.

Thank you for supporting St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Scan to Register in the Parish



Contact the Parish Office 609 494 8861
info@stfrancislbj.org
Visit our website: www.stfrancisparishlbj.org