

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY...

People want to know about parish finances, and they have an absolute right to this knowledge: after all, it is their input (dollar-wise) that enables the parish's financial stability or instability. So what can we summarize from FY2006 at Our Savior?

To my simplistic way of thinking, with all the line items and credit/debit accounts, there are only three columns that really matter: budget, year-to-date (YTD); expenses, YTD; and income YTD. Ideally, you want income to exceed budget expectation and expenses; in a pinch, it's just fine if income is below budget, so long as it's still higher than expenses.

That's precisely where we found ourselves the end of this past fiscal year. Budget may not have been the most realistic of all possible figures (but then, it's really only a guide to help develop proper budgeting practices). But even though we collected less than was budgeted for, we also expended less. So we have a surplus of sorts. What will we do with it?

Unfortunately, some of it must be spent in FY2007: on priests' retirement/insurance, and on Archdiocesan tax. We will pay the former in one lump sum; we will pay half the latter now, with the other half in June.

This leaves us with approximately \$20,000.00 to "play with." We'll be doing it as follows: about \$9,000.00 will go to the new phone system that we in the office need and you in the parish strongly expressed the desire that we get. Installation will be complete in a couple of weeks.

The rest is going into our newly-created "designated-restricted" line item for capital reserve. In other words, it's a boost to the roughly \$5,000.00 I have squirreled into such an account, to save for the proverbial rainy day. We don't know what will hit us, or when; we want to be at least partially prepared if and when it does. And we're on a good track toward that goal!

We think our FY2007 budget is more realistic than in the past. We hope we're under-estimating collections, and over-estimating expenses. In a few months, we'll see. Meanwhile, Catholic Charities is upon us, and we have yet another "opportunity to excel," in our generosity that stretches beyond our parish bounds. God bless you for your goodness!