

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
Catholic Church
Los Osos, CA

Stewardship Report

FISCAL YEAR SEP. 2014 –AUG. 2015

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope all of you are well and enjoying the blessings of Easter and Spring!

It is a grace to be here with you for one (1) year and nine (9) months. I am forever grateful to the Risen Lord for giving this opportunity to serve you.

As your ninth (9th) parish priest, it is my duty to be God's instrument in sharing Jesus with you. It is also my responsibility to update you about the temporal aspects of the parish. It is for this purpose that I present to you the *St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (SEAS) Parish Stewardship Report for the Fiscal Year 2014-2015*.

This report has five (5) parts: I. We are a family (Description of Parish Operations); II. Gifts and Blessings (Accomplishments); III. Income and Expenses Report; IV. The True Picture; V. Conclusion.

I. WE ARE A FAMILY

Running a parish is like raising a family.

1. A family is composed of parents and children. A parish community is composed of a parish priest, parish staff, parish committees & ministries, and parishioners.
2. Parents collaborate to provide the best for their children. Parish priest collaborates with Parish Pastoral & Finance Councils, parish ministries & committees to best serve the parishioners.
3. Parents need income so as to provide for their children, to pay for utilities and other bills. A parish relies on donations of parishioners so as to facilitate the celebration of the Sacraments, to pay utilities and other bills.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

We Are A Family.....	1-2
Gifts & Blessings.....	3-5
Income & Expenses.....	6
The True Picture.....	7-8
Conclusion.....	8

TOPICS OF INTEREST

Parish Mission Statement...	2
Parish Councils (PPC & PFC).....	4
Five Foundational Ministries in a Parish.....	4
Sacraments Administered from Sept. 2014 to Aug. 2015.....	5
Excerpts of "The Summary of the U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship" ...	5, 7



WE ARE A FAMILY

4. Parents feed their children with the best food to nourish their bodies. A parish feeds parishioners with Jesus through the Sacraments to nourish their souls.
5. Parents educate their children so as to prepare them for their future career and vocation. A parish gives faith-formation to parishioners of all ages so as (a) to strengthen their faith, hope, and love as they meet daily challenges; and (b) to prepare them ultimately for Heaven.

So you see, a parish is a huge version of our respective families. As every family has its joys and challenges, so does a parish. As every family needs material help, so does Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church need funds in order to keep operating.

“Running a parish is like raising a family.”

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Los Osos, CA, are a Christ-centered community joined together in honor of our deeply rooted Catholic traditions, celebrated through multicultural diversity, a commitment to family values and dedication to service. All are welcome.

The following are the sources of money which are used for parish operations (complete list is in the *Income and Expenses Report* on page 6). For this report, money received shall be called *income* or *revenue*:

1. Weekend Plate Collections
2. Annual Ministries Appeal
3. Annual International Festival
4. Various Food Sales
5. Bequests
6. Donations for Religious Education
7. Donations for the celebration of various Sacraments
8. Other donations

The income or revenue that Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church receives from parishioners and other donors is used to pay the following (complete list is in the *Income and Expenses Report* on page 6):

1. Monthly salaries of parish priest and parish staff
2. Utilities expenses of the church and the priest's house (rectory)
3. Church and office supplies
4. Religious Education materials; on-going formation of catechists
5. Property taxes, insurance, maintenance & repairs of buildings, etc.
6. Other expenses

II. GIFTS AND BLESSINGS

I arrived here on July 1, 2014. It was two (2) months before the new fiscal year started. This period was my “getting-to-know you” stage. Remember the first photos we took?



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)

Chairperson: Ron Munds

Members:

Richard Avila, Katie Cascamo, Josie Galo, Charles Ice, Leonel Lopez, Pete McAdam, Patricia Nelson, Susan Tuttle, & Javier Soto-Osorio.

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL (PFC)

Chairperson:

Hank Watterworth

Members:

Dave Bresnan, Ron & Mary Munds, Susan Tuttle, and Javier Soto-Osorio.

FIVE FOUNDATIONAL MINISTRIES IN A PARISH by Matthew Manion

1. Sacraments & Worship
2. Education & Formation
3. Governance and Administration
4. Service & Outreach
5. Evangelization and Vocations

GIFTS & BLESSINGS

It is a blessing that my predecessor, Rev. Lucas Pantoja, had an active *Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)*. This volunteer group of parishioners advise the parish priest with regard to pastoral planning and issues of the community.

However, I needed another consultative body that would advise me with regard to money and property issues of the parish. I established the *Parish Finance Council (PFC)* and held the first meeting on August 16, 2014. This group is comprised of selected parishioners who are respected in the fields of business, management, accounting, bookkeeping, and are also familiar with parish daily concerns.

Eventually, I started to meet the various parish ministries and committees, its leaders (which I renamed as “chief servants”), members and volunteers. These groups are the following:

SACRAMENTS & WORSHIP

1. Liturgy Committee
2. Lectors & Commentators*
3. Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist*
4. Ministry to the Sick & the Homebound*
5. Music Ministry*
6. Altar Servers*
7. Sacristans*
8. Ushers & Greeters Committee
9. Sacred Linens Laundry
10. Liturgical Environment Committee
11. Sunday Children’s Liturgy of the Word
12. Eucharistic Adoration
13. *Guadalupanas*

SERVICE & OUTREACH

1. Bereavement Committee
2. People’s Kitchen
3. Sunday Hospitality

EDUCATION & FORMATION

1. Hispanic Catechists Group
2. Children’s First Sacraments Catechesis
3. Youth Confirmation
4. Adult RCIA
5. Reception of Baptized Christians

EVANGELIZATION and VOCATIONS

1. English Bible Class
2. ARISE
3. Faith Sharing Ministry

GOVERNANCE and ADMINISTRATION

1. Parish Properties Committee
2. Annual Ministries Appeal
3. Fundraising Committee
4. Tamales Team
5. International Festival Committee
6. *Quermés* (Hispanic Food Sales)
7. Plate Collection Counters

*English & Hispanics groups

GIFTS & BLESSINGS

Significant changes and improvements began on 2015:

1. January 20-22, 2015: Church and office building tented for termite treatment.
2. February 12-14, 2015: Asphalting and striping of church parking area.



3. February 24, 2015: Parish office moved to temporary office space in church as modular building was inspected and repaired.



4. March 19, 2015: Revival of celebration of St. Joseph's Feast with procession, Mass, and dinner.



5. April 21, 2015: Teens' Confirmation by Bishop Richard Garcia.
6. May 24, 2015: Commissioning of all liturgical ministers; Ministries' Fair, Food Sales.
7. June 8, 2015: *Parish Data System (PDS) on Demand* installed for efficient parish data recording.
8. June 21, 2015: Oven-cooked chicken fundraiser by Dockside Restaurant.
9. August 16, 2015: Revival of Pancake Breakfast Sale (all-you-can-eat)
10. August 23-24, 2015: Safe Environment Talk by Deacon Warren Hoy.



SACRAMENTS ADMINISTERED FROM SEPT. 2014 to AUGUST 2015

Infant Baptisms.....	14
First Holy Communion.....	39
Teen Confirmation.....	22
Adult Confirmation.....	1
Weddings.....	3
Funerals.....	9



STEWARDSHIP

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Pt 4:10).

What identifies a steward? Safeguarding material and human resources and using them responsibly are one answer; so is generous giving of time, talent, and treasure. But being a Christian steward means more. As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.

STEWARDS OF THE CHURCH

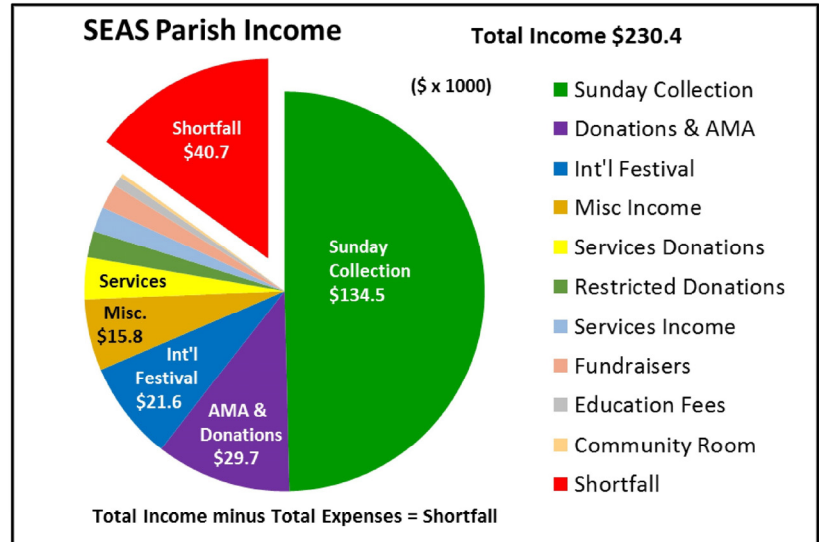
Stewards of God's gifts are not passive beneficiaries. We cooperate with God in our own redemption and in the redemption of others. We are also obliged to be stewards of the Church—collaborators and cooperators in continuing the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, which is the Church's essential mission. This mission—proclaiming and teaching, serving and sanctifying—is our task. It is the personal responsibility of each one of us as stewards of the Church. All members of the Church have their own roles to play in carrying out its mission: (pg. 7)

III. INCOME and EXPENSES REPORT

Fiscal Year September 2014 through August 2015

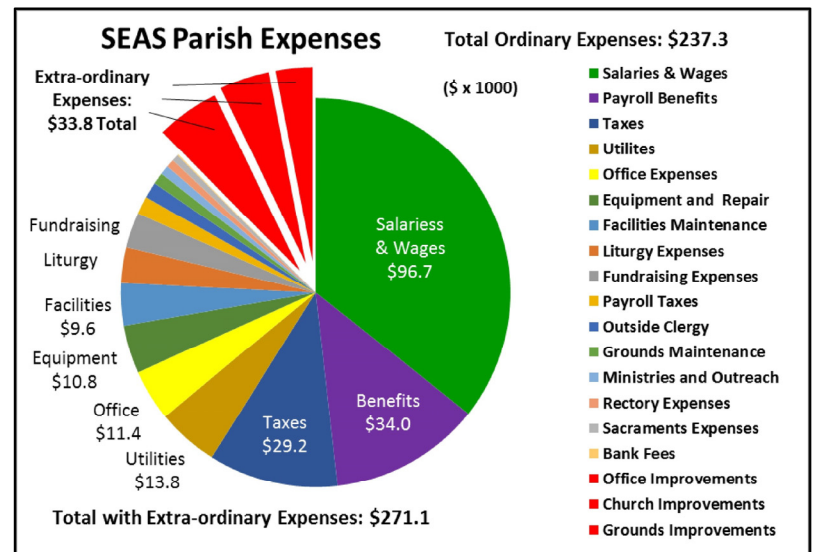
Income Summary

Sunday Collection	\$134,484
Donations & AMA	\$29,723
International Festival	\$21,612
Miscellaneous Income	\$15,754
Services Donations	\$9,015
Restricted Donations	\$5,810
Services Income	\$5,491
Fundraisers	\$5,440
Education Fees	\$2,227
Community Room Fees	\$834
Total Income	\$230,389



Ordinary Expense Summary

Salaries & Wages	\$96,706
Payroll Benefits	\$33,954
Taxes	\$29,178
Utilities	\$13,775
Office Expenses	\$11,436
Equipment and Repair	\$10,805
Facilities Maintenance	\$9,615
Liturgy Expenses	\$8,071
Fundraising Expenses	\$7,979
Payroll Taxes	\$3,978
Outside Clergy	\$3,595
Grounds Maintenance	\$2,601
Ministries and Outreach	\$2,064
Rectory Expenses	\$1,828
Sacraments Expenses	\$1,505
Bank Fees	\$242
Subtotal Ordinary Expenses	\$237,332



Extra-ordinary Expense Summary

Office Improvements	\$14,236
Church Improvements	\$11,240
Grounds Improvements	\$8,281
Subtotal Extra-ordinary Expenses	\$33,757

Total Expenses \$271,089

The total Income for the parish was \$230,389. Ordinary operating Expenses were \$237,332, which means our income was not enough to cover even our ordinary expenses by \$6,943. In addition we spent \$33,757 of extra-ordinary expenses for improvements and repairs to the office, church, and grounds. We used money from our "Penwell Fund" to cover both the ordinary expense shortfall and the extra-ordinary expenses. However, the ordinary shortfall of \$6,943 needs to be repaid to the "Penwell Fund" which is limited by the donor to use for building improvements.

IV. THE TRUE PICTURE

I love our parish! We may not be financially rich like other parishes but we are affluent in kindness and generosity. It is this generosity that helps the parish survive “from pay check to pay check,” “from one scratch to one peck existence,” or in Tagalog “*isang kahig, isang tuka*.” It is true that the parish incurred more expenses than income. Our shortfall for this fiscal year is \$6,943. But through God’s Providence, the donations that are trickling-in help us pay the bills one at a time.

It will be better, however, if everybody will donate not in a sense of crisis-giving, i.e. if the church sound system breaks down and we must pay to have it repaired. We should give in a spirit of Stewardship. It means to support St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church with a certain percentage of our means regardless of whether the church sound system needs fixing or not. It is not good practice to dip into the “Penwell Fund.” The donor intended it for “Building Improvements” only. We need to have sufficient money to cover parish ordinary expenses. I understand that it may take three (3) to five (5) years to make this into a reality. If we achieve this, then our parish will gain a sense of financial cushion whenever ordinary parish operations expenses increase.

“We should give in a spirit of Stewardship.”

HOW CAN WE IMPROVE OUR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS?

1. Pray and decide a **percentage of your income** to be donated to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church;
2. Increase the **number of parishioners** participating in and the **amount donated** to the **Annual Ministries Appeal**;
3. Enroll in **Electronic Giving** (direct debit from your account) instead of the envelope system for a consistent, continuous, convenient contribution to the Weekend Plate Collection;
4. Include in your **Last Will & Testament** the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church to receive a **bequest**;
5. Support and promote the **Annual International Festival** and various **parish food sales & fairs**;
6. Increase your **contribution** to the **Weekend Plate Collection**;
7. Increase the number of **participation** among registered parishioners in the Weekend Plate Collection;
8. Choose the church hall as **venue** of your gatherings and donate;
9. Suggest **new sources** of income / revenues for the parish.

(from pg. 5)

- Parents, who nurture their children in the light of faith;
- Parishioners, who work in concrete ways to make their parishes true communities of faith and vibrant sources of service to the larger community;
- All Catholics, who give generous support—time, money, prayers, and personal service according to their circumstances—to parish and diocesan programs and to the universal Church...

A STEWARD'S WAY

The life of a Christian steward models the life of Jesus. It is challenging and even difficult, in many respects, yet intense joy comes to those who take the risk to live as Christian stewards. Women and men who seek to live as stewards learn that "all things work for good for those who love God" (Rom 8:28).

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. As the Mother of Christ, she lived her ministry in a spirit of fidelity and service; she responded generously to the call. We must ask ourselves: Do we also wish to be disciples of Jesus Christ and Christian stewards of our world and our Church? Central to our human and Christian vocations, as well as to the unique vocation each one of us receives from God, is that we be good stewards of the gifts we possess. God gives us this divine-human workshop, this world and Church of ours.

(Reference: Excerpts of “The Summary of the U.S. Bishops’ Pastoral Letter on Stewardship” <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/stewardship/>)

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Catholic Church
Los Osos, CA**

Monterey Diocese's 45th parish, this Catholic community was established on July 2, 1984 by the late Bishop Thaddeus Shubsda. Rev. James Frerkes was the founding pastor. Eight (8) clergymen have succeeded him. Dedicated under the care of the first native-born American saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton, the parish cares for three (3) main cultural groups: Anglo, Hispanics, Filipinos, which at the close of the Fiscal Year Aug. 2015, numbered 280 registered families. Faithful to our mission, we also minister to non-registered Catholics and non-Catholics who ask for pastoral & spiritual assistance.

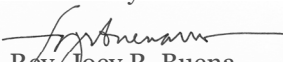
THE TRUE PICTURE

Under my administration, rest assured that the parish upholds transparency on how funds are spent, needs and wants are delineated, and a Stewardship Report is annually presented. This is God's Will: all parishioners should know where their contributions go.

V. CONCLUSION

With a renovated parish office, we are ready to move forward. For the Fiscal Year Sept. 2015 to Aug. 2016, faith-formation & sanctuary improvements are the target. The parish needs everybody's prayers and financial help. With your continuous support, we will reach our goal. If each member pitches in, a financial cushion to shoulder ordinary parish operations expenses can be achieved in a few years. With an efficient and effective Pastoral & Finance Councils, the parish will be able to serve you better each year. On behalf of my staff, the PPC and PFC, we thank God for all of you. With our Merciful God, our Blessed Mother Mary, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, all shall be well! My love & prayers are with you. Please pray for me, too.

Yours truly in the Risen Christ,


Rev. Joey R. Buena

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