

The Catholic Community of *St. Thomas More*

Stewardship Report 2014-2015

In gratitude, we share our gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure





The Catholic Community of St. Thomas More

Vision Statement

Inspired by the courage and conviction of St. Thomas More, responding to God as the Virgin Mary did, and called in baptism as prayerful stewards, we share our gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

In so doing, we strive to be “True Disciples of Jesus.”

Mission Statement

As disciples of Jesus Christ we are a diverse and hospitable Catholic Community.

We pray, serve and spread the Gospel with joy.

Letter from the Pastor

My Dear People,

In my homily for our 75th Anniversary Mass on June 20th and in our new welcome video (which you can view at www.stmchapelhill.org), I spoke about a question I was asked by a young man who was not Catholic. He stopped by one day to ask me some questions about the Catholic faith. In the end, I asked him what led him to come in and ask to see me. He told the story of how he and his uncle were driving by the campus one night when there was a lot of activity. The lights were on and there were many cars in the parking lot. His uncle asked the question, “What is this place?” In my homily and in the video I attempted to answer that question.



I am happy to present to you our 2015 Stewardship Report. I believe that this report will also go a long way to answer the question of “What is this place?” In these pages, you will find reports about how we as a parish have practiced stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure over the last year. In these pages you will find highlights of various ministries within our four portfolios: Liturgy, Community, Evangelization and Service. You will also find financial reports for the church and the school. I ask that you read this information carefully so that you are well informed about the state of our parish ministries and finances.

Our 75th anniversary has provided many chances for us to celebrate the many graces and blessings God has bestowed upon us as a parish community. From Msgr. Michael Clay’s presentation about Catholicism in the South to the Lenten Retreat Day and Reception with Bishop Robert Barron, to our Anniversary Mass with Bishop Burbidge, we have done well to *Remember* our past, to *Rejoice* in all we have been given and who we are, and to *Renew* our common bonds as a parish community and our desire to be of service to God and each other. We still have a couple of important events coming up as part of our 75th: the trip to Italy, a Volunteer Party on November 21st and our closing Mass and celebration on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th.

What is this place? We are a community of disciples of Jesus Christ who pray, serve and spread the gospel with joy. Thanks for being a part of this wonderful parish. Fr. Labosky and I are grateful for the chance to live our priestly ministry here in your midst every day. Let’s continue to pray for one another.

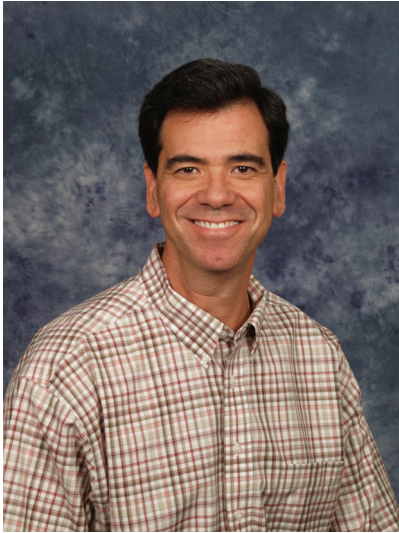
In His Love,

Very Rev. Scott E. McCue, V.F.
Pastor

Letter from the Parish Administrator

Dear Fellow parishioners of the Catholic Community of St. Thomas More,

Welcome to our 2015 Stewardship Report! What a wonderful time to be a member of our parish, as we celebrate 75 years of Catholic presence in Chapel Hill.



I hope that by now you have enjoyed some of the many events that have helped mark this important milestone anniversary; whether you attended one the wonderful talks by Msgr. Michael Clay, Fr. Robert Barron (now Bishop Barron!), or Dr. Paul Griffiths; or joined us for the beautiful concert by Hermana Glenda or the retreat and concert with Kairy Marquez, or played an active role in the Month of Service, or took part in the spiritually fulfilling 75 hours of adoration, or enjoyed the wonderful celebration that was the 75th Anniversary Mass with Bishop Burbidge and Parish Festival, or supported Fr. Pontiano Chomba on his third visit to STM under the auspices of the diocesan Missionary Cooperation program, or may indulge in the upcoming trip to Italy. If not, please plan on accompanying us for the Volunteer Appreciation event in November, and for the closing of the yearlong celebration around the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas in December, which also happens to be the anniversary of the dedication of our church building.

This year also marks my tenth anniversary as parish administrator and every year when it is time to write for the Stewardship Report, it is at the same time joyful and humbling to witness how the Kingdom of God is built, little by little, with lots of work and great love by the many people who are an active part of our community. More than one hundred ministries and groups involving over 1,400 parishioners serve our church, our school, our extended community—what a blessing!

As a Stewardship parish, we strive to share our Time, our Talents and our Treasure in fulfillment of our Mission. There is a long road ahead of us, filled with challenges, joys and sorrows, stories to be written and experiences to be lived, always under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the protection of our Blessed Mother Mary.

In closing, a prayer by St. Thomas Aquinas:
Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you,
a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you,
conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you,
and a hope of finally embracing you.

What a beautiful summary of what our lives are to be about.

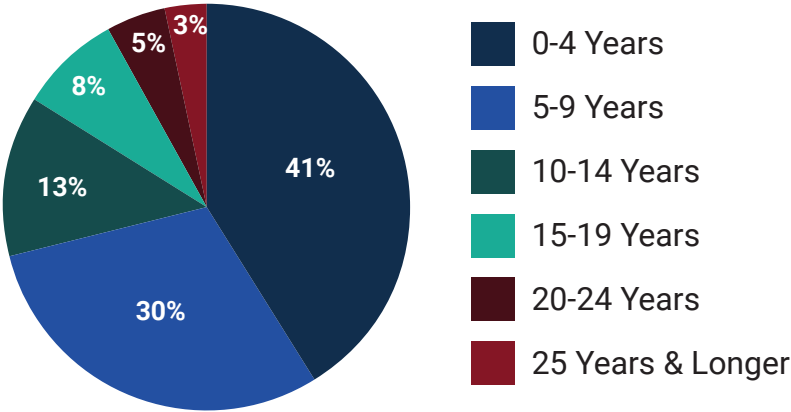
God Bless,

Carlos Lima
Parish Administrator

Demographics

Individuals

Longevity of Parishioners



Average Age of Parishioners

30.47

Number of Males

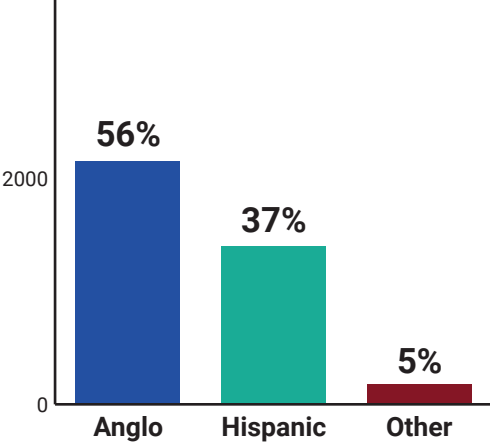
6,016

Number of Females

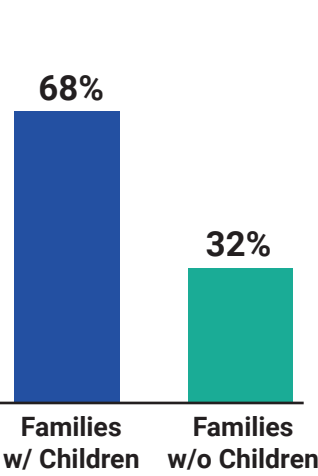
6,398

Households

Number of Households



Households With/out Children



Average Family Size

3.21

Community & Stewardship

876

Children were enrolled in Faith Development this past year.

461

Students were enrolled at STM School this past year.

1,432

Parishioners are involved in our parish's various ministries.



13% of STM parishioners are actively involved in ministries.

Liturgy

Liturgy

The liturgy is the public prayer of the Church. And since the Church, the Body of Christ, remains forever united to her Head, that makes her public prayer an action of Christ Himself. Thus by participating in the liturgy, we not only witness Christ's saving work but are invited to cooperate with Him for our own salvation and that of the whole world. This cooperation demands our full, conscious, and active participation, so every baptized person present at the liturgy has work to do: listen attentively, join in the responses, sing along when appropriate, and the like. Going through these motions is easy, but accomplishing them in a holy and attentive way is tougher than one might think. As we strive to pray from the pews, we are supported by many ministries dedicated to helping us achieve our goal.

as their goal is to show forth Christ and allow us to see and hear Him through their ministry. St. Benedict Ministers who welcome us in Christ's name and St. Matthew Ministers who collect our offerings ensure the good order that allows us to pray well. And even with the help of these many people, we would not get our liturgical celebrations off the ground without a host of more or less unseen ministers: Sacristans who prepare the material needs of each liturgy, Mass Coordinators who ensure all ministry positions are filled, Altar Care volunteers who launder linens, an Arts and Environment Committee charged with maintaining the beauty of the church through the changing liturgical seasons, and special coordinators who help prepare and celebrate the rites that grace our lives at Baptisms, Quinceañeras, Weddings and Funerals.

Liturgical Ministers

One of the chief ways we participate is through song, examined in more detail below. But just as visible as our parish musicians are Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who distribute Christ's Body and Blood, Lectors who proclaim His Scriptures, and Altar Servers who assist His priest. The better they perform their roles for us the less we will notice them,

Morning Prayer and Adoration

These latter point us toward the breadth of our liturgical life beyond Sunday Mass. Our parish also celebrates Morning Prayer on weekdays of Advent and Lent, and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration on Wednesdays and First Fridays. Together with other time-tested devotions such as the Rosary and Lenten Stations of the Cross, we hope that these liturgies will forge us into a true people of prayer.





Music

We sing and pray as a joy-filled community, and we are blessed with a host of volunteer musicians who devote their time and talents to expressing our faith in the spiritual language of music. Leading and supporting the Assembly's song are cantors, choirs, organists, pianists, and many instrumentalists, both professional and amateur.

Music has been called an "outburst of the soul" that takes us beyond words to touch the heart as well as the mind. The ministry of the Cantor is to lead us more deeply into the message of the Psalms, our 2,000-year-old treasury of prayer. Psalms of joy; psalms of sorrow; psalms of comfort. The readings are proclaimed to us, but the response rises from the Assembly in song—as "our voice," and as "one voice."

Our choirs inspire us to dwell in the music sung for every Mass, from our regular liturgies to Holy Days, weddings, funerals and St. Thomas More School celebrations. Together, we sing the new Mass text introduced in 2011. During Ordinary Time, we sing Kevin Keil's "Mass of St. Frances Cabrini." For festive days and seasons we sing Stephen Janco's "Mass of Wisdom." During Lent and for smaller gatherings, we sing the simpler chant settings based on traditional Gregorian chant. A similar variety of congregational music is sung at Masses in Spanish.

Heartfelt thanks to the many people who faithfully rehearse week by week to provide the music that expresses our community prayer. Three fine adult choirs support our weekly liturgies.

The Celebration Singers, led by Barbara Reynolds, sing Sundays at 9:15 a.m. This year they provided musical meditation on the Blessed Eucharist during the Seventy-five Hours of Adoration and celebrated the service of Tenebrae during Lent. The Schola

Cantorum, led by Roger Petrich, sings Sundays at 11:15 a.m. During the Seventy-five Hours of Adoration, Schola sang much of Mozart's "Litany of the Blessed Sacrament" with orchestra accompaniment. During Lent, Schola sang Liszt's "Via Crucis"—the Stations of the Cross, set to music. From September through June, they sang choral settings of the Proper Communion Antiphons in music composed by Roger Petrich, our Director of Music.

The Coro Santa Cecilia, led by Marianne Kremer, sings at the 1:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish. This year-round choir rehearses on Friday evenings and also sings for bilingual Holy Day liturgies. The Paz y Alegria, led by Pavelid Casteneda, plays for one Mass each month, Monday evening prayer services and other devotional gatherings, and adds their voices and instruments to our festive bilingual Masses.

The voices of our children's choirs are a special joy for the Assembly. The St. Thomas More School Choir, led by Beth Gunn, assists with the school's Friday morning Masses. The Children's Choir, led by Teresa Leiser, accepts children in grades 2 through 8 and rehearses each Saturday, learning to use their voices correctly and to become part of the liturgy. They sing twice a month at the Saturday Mass, on Christmas Eve and on Palm Sunday.

Our Chelsea Chimes handbell choir, led by Roger Petrich, brings the splendor of bells and chimes "holy bling" to our prayer. The Chelsea Chimes rehearse on Thursday evenings and invite anyone who reads music to join in this unusual and delightful way to "sing for joy." They ring monthly, usually for the Vigil Mass on Saturday. They recently rang at the 1:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish for the first time. They participate in the Capital Area Handbell Festivals held each November at the N.C. Fairgrounds, and have performed at Duke University, Morehead Planetarium, and for other community groups.

Community

The ministries within the Community Portfolio provide St. Thomas More parishioners with many opportunities to engage fellow members through active and shared spiritual, social, celebratory and service endeavors. Listed below are some of the ways these were accomplished over the last year:

Bereavement Ministry

The Bereavement Ministry strives to provide an atmosphere of care and support for those mourning the loss of a loved one. Facilitators and attendees utilize a program called Seasons of Hope, which consists of four, six-week sets of independent sessions that explore various aspects of grief, with a Christ-centered focus. The Seasons of Hope program started in 2015 and two sessions were completed as of August. Planning continues for Fall and ongoing sessions.

Bowling with the Pastor

The monthly parish Bowling Night with the Pastor continued last year and gave parishioners at all skill levels the opportunity to spend time with one another and Fr. Scott away from the parish setting in a relaxed, non-competitive atmosphere.

Catholic Daughters

The purposes of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (Court Ave Maria) are to actively participate in the religious, charitable and educational apostolates of the Church. Activities are guided by their motto of "unity and charity." Through their fundraising activities, the Catholic Daughters contributed last year to the parish youth groups, emergency assistance fund, priests retirement fund, seminarians, Caring and Sharing Center, Habitat for Humanity (Building Hope Partnership), Latino Health Fair, Respect Life Ministry, and the IFC Food Pantry. Members assisted with the Knights of Columbus fish fries and the Parish Festival, worked together to provide Christmas presents for several families, contributed to community organizations including ARC of the Triangle and the National Association for Mental Illness, and contributed books for school children. The Court also conducted an education scholarship contest for students at St. Thomas More Catholic School and one participant won second place in the national Catholic Daughters education contest. In



June a ceremony was held to celebrate all members who joined since installation of the Court at St. Thomas More in 2011.

Catholic Women's Book Club

The Catholic Women's Book Club met monthly to pray the Holy Rosary, to pray for each other, and to discuss books about the Catholic faith ranging from Bill O'Reilly's *Killing Jesus* to *The Confessions of St. Augustine* written 1,600 years ago. Members plan to read nine books in the coming year.

Couples for Christ

The Couples for Christ Ministry was engaged in evangelization efforts by inviting married couples to their Christian Life Program. Several couples finished the 9-week program and their lives and relationships have been changed for the better in terms of understanding their roles as husband and wife and in developing a deeper spiritual relationship with their children.

Dinner Club

The Dinner Club provides an enjoyable way for parishioners to get to know one another and welcome parish newcomers in an intimate setting. Last year, participants—including Fr. Scott—were placed into small groups (7-8 people) at the beginning of the academic year and took turns hosting monthly dinners at each other's homes. The focus was not on the food but on fellowship. All parishioners who had newly registered within the calendar year were invited to join the Dinner Club, and several did!

Divorce Support Ministry

A new Catholic divorce healing program based on Church teaching and utilizing the Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide was offered last year at St. Thomas More for separated or divorced individuals undergoing a difficult time. Two 12-week sessions were held and offered insight and support to those in need of comfort, counsel and clarity. Facilitators of the Divorce Support Ministry plan to hold additional sessions in the upcoming year.

Faith Connections on Mental Illness

In April 2015, many people from within and outside St. Thomas More attended the 5th annual conference sponsored by Faith Connections on Mental Illness which centered on embracing troubled minds and on the supporting role of faith communities. The keynote speaker was award-winning author Amy Simpson. Dr. Alan Johnson, co-founder of Interfaith Network on Mental Illness, also gave a presentation. Breakout sessions were headed by Shelley Danser, Program Coordinator for the Compeer Program at Mental Health America of the Triangle and Dr. John Gilmore, director of the UNC Schizophrenia Research Center and of the UNC STEP Community Clinic in Wake County. Last year the Faith Connections book reading program featured Amy Simpson's "Troubled Minds." The ministry also had a "traveling table," which spent weekends in several faith communities and provided information and books to further the mission of educating people of faith to aid struggling families and to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness.



Friends in Faith

The Friends in Faith Group continued to bring together parishioners, age 50 and older, for enjoyable activities, celebrations and prayer to strengthen the social bonds and build on the foundation of an active senior life. Activities were social in nature and appropriate for singles and married couples. Members met for monthly luncheons and social gatherings which included videos, speakers and other activities, as well as for a Christmas Party and Summer Picnic. Several leaders at St. Thomas More were invited as guests to provide an avenue for two-way sharing of ministries and mission.

Funeral Reception Ministry

The Funeral Reception Ministry ("Loaves and Fishes") hosted a warm and welcoming reception for the family and friends of each of our beloved deceased parishioners last year thanks to many gracious parishioners who prepared refreshments and myriad dishes of finger foods and desserts.

Hospitality

Together with parish staff members, the Knights of

Columbus, Friends in Faith, Catholic Daughters, and Outreach Committee hosted five Hospitality Week-ends that brought families together in the Friends and Family Hall to enjoy donuts, refreshments and fellowship after all Masses. In the coming year, Parish ministries will continue to host these popular and well-attended events that build, encourage and celebrate community at St Thomas More.

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

The Intercessory Prayer Ministry continued to intercede in private prayer and at monthly meetings for the needs of our parish community and others, as well as to give thanks to the Lord for prayers heard. The number of prayer requests are many, but the praise report of answered prayers is longer!

Iron Sharpens Iron

The mission of the Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Fellowship is to help men of the parish become the very best they can be through fellowship, reflection, discussion, service, study and prayer. They met weekly at 6:30 a.m. to encourage, inspire and support the Catholic men of St. Thomas More to be the husbands, fathers, workers, citizens and disciples that God is calling them to be. This past year the Fellowship conducted the Map-of-Life program for the St. Thomas More Community and participated in another program in Cary. They studied and discussed Matthew Kelly's book, *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*. "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" *Proverbs 27:17*

Knights of Columbus Council 10910

The Knights of Columbus Council 10910 has raised and donated thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours to St. Thomas More and the local community. Last year members provided the monthly Pancake Breakfast, the annual Priest Appreciation Dinner, lunches for two annual Parish Pride Days, the annual Oktoberfest celebration, the annual sale of raffle tickets to support Seminar-ians and Fish Fry dinners during Lent. "Knight Call," a helping hands ministry, continued to assist Parish members who have needs for special assistance on a short term basis. Council members continued



involvement with Parish ministries and the conduct of many family and youth programs. Members were also active in community programs, such as Operation LAMB, the proceeds from which were used to fund programs for those with mental disabilities. BBQ Fundraisers were conducted throughout the year to raise funds for the Parish's community outreach program to assist those in need.

Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree

The Knights of the Fourth Degree Divine Mercy Assembly build and encourage active Catholic citizenship and promote patriotism. Divine Mercy Assembly Knights are members of the Paul J. Trageser Council, 10910, at St. Thom-as More Church, but they are also the home assembly to Knights of Holy Family, Holy Infant, and Immaculate Conception Catholic Churches in Durham. Assembly Knights join with members of the C.V. Cummings Chapel Hill Post 9100, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, to sponsor social activities with hospitalized veterans and to care for homeless veterans. As they do each year, last year they held a special fundraiser on Veterans Day Weekend to benefit hospitalized amputees at Ft. Bragg and Camp Lejeune. All collected funds for this province-wide project were passed to Wounded Warriors via the Military Order of the Purple Heart as a gift from the community of St. Thomas More, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart matched the collected funds dollar for dollar!



New Horizons

For the 7th year the New Horizons group of widows and widowers gathered for monthly social luncheons at the Chapel Hill Country Club.

Nursery

By providing a safe and entertaining environment for toddler and preschool children during the 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Masses, parish staff and parent volunteers in the Sunday Morning Nursery Ministry continued to offer families the opportunity for more prayerful worship during Mass time.

Paz y Alegria

Paz y Alegria served our church by singing and playing instruments for the 1:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish on the fourth Sunday of each month, the "La Virgen de Guadalupe" celebration, and the Parish Festival held in June. Additionally, members of this music ministry brought music to the sick and participated in bilingual church services and the "Posadas" that took place during the Christmas season. The ministry is comprised of one coordinator and a musical group as its base and a class of students who receive instruction in piano, guitar and vocals.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Since forming in December 2014, members of the new Prayer Shawl Ministry knitted or crocheted more than 100 shawls and lap blankets, threaded with prayer, to uplift people experiencing adversity, whether from illness, an operation or the loss of a loved one. Shawls were also presented as gifts for joyful occasions, such as a 100-year birthday. The ministry has brought together crafters who share in fellowship and use their time and talents to produce beautiful prayer shawls that help recipients be reminded of the mercy, peace and compassion found in God's loving embrace.



San Isidro Labrador Garden

The San Isidro Labrador Garden had a wonderful second year in 2014, concluding with the fall vegetables and putting the garden to sleep for the winter. The Stewardship Fair was an opportunity to tell more people about the garden, about building a community of organic gardeners, learning together about soil and plants and contributing produce each week to individuals seeking aid from the parish Financial Assistance Office. New members joined, and in 2015 there are 15, with 5 to 10 participating on any particular work day. A new handicap-accessible raised bed was built near the garden entrance, and all beds are now "in production."



Social Committee

The Social Committee, in conjunction with Parish staff and volunteers, provided food and entertainment for glorious parish celebrations such as the annual Parish Festival held in June.

Softball Team

The St. Thomas More Softball Team, which has been in existence for more than 30 years, continues to provide a welcoming, fun and competitive environment for our faith community to join together on Sunday afternoons to play softball against other local churches. The team played 14 games between late May and late August. The twenty-five men, women and young adults from St. Thomas More typically played other teams comprised of only men. They concluded the season with a 9-5 record and lost in the semi-final tournament to the #1 seeded team.



St. Joseph Ministry

The mission of the St Joseph Ministry (Jobs Network of St. Thomas More) is to help parishioners and

others in the local community who are unemployed, under-employed, or facing their last date of employment. This ministry has been active since 2009, has held over 125 Saturday morning meetings and has been attended by more than 1,500 people. Facilitators of the ministry continued last year to address elements of an effective job search – the plan, a self-knowledge check-up, identifying successes, describing ideal and acceptable jobs, resumes, transferable skills, networking, guiding contacts, interviewing, cover letters, negotiating compensation and salary, and more. They held special workshops on interviewing, LinkedIn, elevator speeches and resumes, as well as addressing age discrimination. Numerous participants obtained new jobs thanks to the help, support and contacts made at these meetings.

Women’s Club

The Women’s Club added another year to its decades-long history at St. Thomas More. Members continued to meet monthly to enjoy each other’s company, share food and spiritual nourishment and to affirm and support one another and the parish community.

Young Adult Ministry (YAM)

The St. Thomas More Young Adults Ministry provides a small-group community for Catholics, ages 21-35, who desire to learn more about their faith, make new friends, and share their love for God. Thursday meetings last year were a great success and included a study of prayer with “Oremus,” a review of Bishop Robert Barron’s *Catholicism* series and many social events. In the upcoming year, the YAM will meet every other Monday for a study on the Catechism and the Bible and will gather for dinner on different dates and for brunch on the first Sunday of the month. An exciting agenda is planned for the coming months!

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

St. Teresa of Avila

Hispanic Ministries

Our Parish is home to 1,450 families with Spanish as their primary language. Here are the wonderful results of this increase in our community:

- Bilingual liturgical celebrations and events that allow parishioners to express their faith as one community speaking two languages.
- A growing number of bilingual children and teens attending Faith Development and Sacramental Preparation, especially at Elementary and JYM sessions.
- Around 30 bilingual parishioners volunteering as catechists/ assistant catechists in the Faith Development Program.
- 20 Hispanic adults have fulfilled their Christian Initiation through a Spanish Adult Faith Formation Program.
- 30 people have attended adult formation courses sponsored by the Doorways of Formation Diocesan program.
- Weekly Mass in Spanish with trained liturgical ministers assisting at each liturgy including Children’s Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) participated by an average of 60 children.
- A monthly Baptism Celebration with an average of 10 children.
- A 75th Parish Anniversary Concert and Retreat with Kairy Marquez as the guest speaker was hosted.



- Agua Viva prayer group hosted retreats and workshops on Spiritual Life.
- Spiritual preparation of 18 young women and the celebration of their Quinceañeras.
- Sacramental preparation of 15 couples and the celebration of their marriages.
- Catholic Hispanic Parents ministry provided formation on parenting according to the Word of God and Catholic Church teachings.
- There are now 20 Spanish-speaking volunteers visiting the sick and homebound.
- We held two retreats—one for men and another for women—under the spirituality of “Retreats of Emmaus,” with 50 participants each of them.



Evangelization

Catholic Formation Ministries are educational, spiritual and catechetical programs intended to bring knowledge of Christian living, the Catholic faith and sacramental preparation to St. Thomas More parishioners.

Adult Formation

■ The Catechumenate (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) in the past year prepared 3 adults and 25 children for initiation into the Church on the Easter Vigil.

■ Bible studies continued with the a DVD presentation of "The Jesus of Scripture" by Rev. Donald Senior, C.P., "Jesus' Life-Giving Death" from the Loyola Six Weeks with the Bible series, and "Through the Narrow Gate with the Mystics" by Richard Rohr, O.F.M. and James Finley, Ph.D.

■ Two courses were presented in the Doorways to Formation in the Faith series for catechists formation: Introduction to the Sacraments presented by Fr. Scott McCue (29 participants) and Introduction to Christian Prayer and Spirituality, presented by Dcn. Bob Troy (7 participants).

■ The "Living the Eucharist" Lent course was offered for the third and final year of the three-year cycle, with about 100 participants in English and 150 in Spanish.



Respect Life Ministry

The Bishops Conference of the United States has developed a pastoral plan for pro-life activities around four areas: education, pastoral care, public policy and prayer and worship. The Respect Life Ministry at St. Thomas More plans programs and activities with these goals in mind. Some of our programs this past year included:

■ To Jesus through Mary: A Rosary Novena for Peace was offered to parishioners of St. Thomas More last October. It began on October 7th, the feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary.

■ We celebrated Respect Life Sunday in October by offering a selection of materials on pro-life top-

ics such as: pornography; abortion; death penalty; chastity; euthanasia; assisted suicide and end of life issues; human trafficking; pregnancy support and care; embryonic stem cell research; contraception; natural family planning; poor pre-natal diagnosis; post-abortion healing; IVF/reproductive technologies; conscience protection and religious liberty.

■ The Respect Life ministry sponsored a day of quilting to shadow the March for Life, January 22, 2015, in Washington, DC. Baby quilts are made for Birthchoice, and are given to mothers who seek support for an unplanned pregnancy.

■ Members of the Respect Life Ministry sponsored the local 40 Days for Life spring campaign in Chapel

Hill. Over 200 people participated in the campaign, which consists of prayer, fasting, public education and providing witness to the atrocities of abortion by quiet prayer in front of the Planned Parenthood clinic in Chapel Hill. Prayer warriors from Raleigh, Durham, Garner, Wake Forest and Rocky Mount joined the campaign. Bishop Burbidge prayed the rosary with us.

■ During Lent 2014, members of the Respect Life Ministry participated in Stations of Cross with Bishop Burbidge and other Diocesan ministries at the site of the Holy Name Cathedral. Each ministry was responsible for leading one station.

■ Members of the Respect Life Ministry together with St. Thomas More Church helped to underwrite the annual Benefit for Life gala. The gala is the major fundraiser for four of the main pro-life programs of the diocese: Birthchoice, Project Rachel, Family Honor and Project Gabriel.

■ Each year, the Respect Life Ministry participates in a Baby Bottle Blessings fundraising campaign for Pregnancy Support Services (PSS). Last year, through the baby bottle campaign, we raised more than \$3,000 for PSS.

Pregnancy Support Services assists women in the Chapel Hill-Durham area facing an unplanned pregnancy. St. Thomas More was one of the founding churches of PSS, and we continue our supportive role in this life-saving effort.



Elementary Faith Development

■ 480 children participated in the Elementary Faith Development program from pre-K to fifth grade.

■ 168 children received the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

■ EFD had 99 full-time volunteers.

■ Our service projects included our Rice Bowl collection and collecting items for the STM Caring and Sharing Center.

■ Special events during our year include: Sr. Laura

Downing speaking on vocations, a visit to the STM Caring and Sharing Center, Christmas Celebration of song and prayer, First Reconciliation and First Eucharist Family Retreats, and Stations of the Cross presentation by our fourth and fifth graders.

■ Week-long Vacation Bible School "Everest" had 180 children in attendance, our largest ever, and collected money (\$1,000) for the victims of Nepal's devastating earthquakes.

■ Children's Liturgy of the Word has 10 volunteers and meets during part of the 9:15 a.m. mass. There are 15-20 children participating in CLOW each week.

Junior Youth Ministry (JYM)

■ The Junior High Youth Ministry program enrolled 112 Junior High youth in grades 6-8.

■ More than 25 “full-time” catechists and volunteers teach and serve the youth of JYM on a regular basis.

■ JYM uses online and printed materials to provide catechesis based on age/grade guidelines from the Diocese of Raleigh.

■ JYM also utilizes speaker series and large group issue nights for combined group experiences, including an introduction to and opportunity for Eucharistic adoration by Deacon Stephen Yates.

■ JYM continues to educate our teens on JPIL’s Theology of the Body with a curriculum specifically designed for Junior High Youth and their developmental stage.

■ 17 (non-traditionally tracked) Junior High youth celebrated the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation with Fr. Scott McCue in April.



■ Service and outreach projects are important to the JYM youth. This year, our youth in middle grades joined together for a joint project with our JYM and STM Middle School Paws for the Cause pet food and supply collection.

■ Other service projects JYM completed this year include: Thanksgiving Basket Food Collections, Parish Pride Days, Cookies for Kairos Prison Ministry with Deacon Phil Rzewnick, and Valentine Visits to the elderly.

■ Social events and time together outside of the classrooms provide the JYM youth with opportunities to build relationships with their peers in the church. This year teens participated in social evenings during Advent, a Mardi Gras social prior to Lent, an ice cream party, and summer social evenings at the youth house.

■ JYM youth participated in trips to Kings Dominion, Mardi Gras Bowling, the National Whitewater Center, Chosen by Christ Retreat at Camp Rockfish, and more.



High School Youth Ministry (TYM)

■ The High School Youth Ministry Program (TYM) had a total of 238 youth in grades 9-12 and 40 “full time” team members and volunteers as part of its base.

■ The Bishop moved STM Confirmation Liturgies to the Fall of each year instead of the Spring.

■ The curriculum was changed to the Ascension Press publication called “Chosen.” It is designed to provide the essential intellectual and spiritual catechesis that is vital to Confirmation Prep and based on Diocesan requirements.

■ We presented 13 youth (non-traditionally tracked High School Youth) to Fr. Scott for First Eucharist and Confirmation.

■ We held 9 “Issue Nights” paralleling a Lifeteen format of group experiences covering topics such as Depression, Suicide, Respect Life, Poverty, Service to the Community, Christian Friendship, Faith and Science combined with clarity of the church’s position on those topics.



■ The High School Youth Leadership Council consisted of 28 teens representing 8 public/private schools.

■ 60 teens and adults traveled to Greensboro, S.C. for their yearly Mission Trip in July. In addition, our teens served the parish through VBS, Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfasts, Bake Sales, Altar Serving, Caring and Sharing Center, Adopt a Family, Habitat for Humanity Fundraising Projects and Respect Life events.

■ A spring beach retreat was added to our events schedule. More than 50 teens participated in the “Brick” Beach Retreat held at North Topsail Island.



■ 17 youth and adults from STM will be attending World Youth Day-Krakow in the Summer of 2016

■ A summer events calendar was instituted and included “Walk In Wednesday” Events, a Glow-in-the-Dark Social, Open Gym Nights and various social gatherings. All summer events were well attended.

■ One of our teens has been appointed to the Diocesan Youth Board representing the Piedmont Deanery. In addition, our youth participate in Diocesan Youth Events such as: Love My Life, SEARCH Retreat and Youth Convention.

■ The Catholic Café Bible Study continued to meet on Wednesday nights in the Youth House during Lent.

■ More than 50 Teens and their chaperones traveled to Washington D.C. to march for the Right to Life, attend the Life is Very Good Rally and adoration.

■ Social Events are crucial in community building between our teens. Teens participated in Movie Nights, Bowling, Whitewater Rafting, Lock In, Youth Convention, Spooktacular, Parish Picnic, and more.

■ 5 members of the parish and staff attended the National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry in San Antonio, Texas.



School Profile

Our school is an intrinsic part of the Catholic Community of St. Thomas More and our mission is to provide an education to each child in a God-centered environment. We exist to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, educating children and their families in the Catholic faith, while celebrating the diversity of all faith traditions. All are welcome to learn and worship with us.

St. Thomas More Catholic School continues to modernize and expand its programming, constantly pursuing a complete embodiment of our Church's mission to make Catholic education available to all. In the 2014-15 school year, we served 461 students across 11 grade levels in our preschool, elementary and middle school. In addition to maintaining our excellent programs and staff, we hope to continue keeping tuition increases as low as possible while increasing our capacity to provide assistance to families who demonstrate need. Our tuition assistance programs currently help more than 90 children attend our school. We are only able to continue this support through the parish's generous subsidy to our school budget, contributions from our Home and School Association, contributions from the Diocese of Raleigh, end-of-year budget surpluses, and private donations.

Listed below are some of the many ongoing initiatives

- to improve our academic, athletic and spiritual programs:
- We enrich and broaden our curriculum above and beyond the Diocesan, State, and Common Core requirements. IOWA test scores are some of the highest in the Diocese of Raleigh, and this year we begin our second year of a STEM approach to science and math in grades 4 through 8.
- Enrichment and resource services continue to grow and provide the capability to reach an even broader spectrum of learners including English language learners. This year our enrichment program will feature dramatic representations of historical events, as well as a "farm to table" approach made possible by our outdoor garden.
- Our middle school program includes an enriching elective program, more varied ability grouping in non-math courses, independent study options in world languages, and an advisory program that brings our children into a more personal setting with adults and their peers to openly discuss topics that impact the children's daily lives.
- Our 8th graders graduate from our school equipped to enter the most challenging high school programs.



- Each spring our former students appear on valedictorian and salutatorian lists, and are featured members on successful sports teams.
- Monitoring academic skills within an RTI (Response to Intervention model) is helping us track the effectiveness of our curriculum and instruction, as well as analyze strengths and needs of individual students. This year we have 3 full-time, dedicated resource and enrichment teachers to support a broader instruction model.
 - Our classrooms continue to be engaging, fun and exciting places to learn and worship as teachers craft and improve their instruction each year. Teachers attend local and regional professional development offerings to continue their learning and growth.
 - Student enrollment in athletics continues to be as high as 30% of our middle school population during all three sports seasons. Last year, our girls volleyball team brought the school's first ever female sports banner to our gym, and the boys soccer team took the league championship. Contributing to our children's overall fitness is a robust Physical Education curriculum that extends through all grades and continues to expand to include dance, movement and games.
 - Our aftercare program extends the day for some of our students with creative play, structured activities, creative arts, homework help and games.
 - Philanthropy continues to be a core part of each family's experience. STM has worked with and collab-

- orated with Special Olympics, Porch, Shoebox Christmas, Catholic Charities, Father Rob Currie in Arenal, Nicaragua, Caring and Sharing Center, Habitat for Humanity and many other organizations. Our Spring "Service Fair" featured more than 20 ministries and organizations meeting our middle school students and enlisting their help over the summer.
- As our band grows, so do their opportunities to perform and travel. This year, we partnered with Cardinal Gibbons and two other Catholic schools to join forces in developing a jazz band, string ensemble and pep band.
 - The support we receive from our parent and church family is extraordinary; creating a vibrant, healthy, and dynamic environment for the whole community. The fund-raising revenues from last year's HSA auction and other community events provided us with a broad range of enhancements that includes a turf field next to the playground, new laptops, and new chairs for our refurbished STM Hall.

Come see for yourself how school should be – Christ daily in our hearts as we love, and in our minds as we learn. Please take advantage of any of our First Thursday tours or call me anytime to talk about our Catholic school.

Michael W. Ashton

Michael W. Ashton, Ed.D.
Principal, St. Thomas More Catholic School

Service

The Service Portfolio supports and encourages the vast outreach of our Parish into the heart of our local community. This variety of ministries impacts thousands of people while enabling the Parish to maintain and strengthen our relationships with the civic and religious communities of the area. This Portfolio also provides for the stewardship of our parish campus. The Goals and Objectives of the Service Portfolio seek to make us good stewards of our environment and community while increasing communication so that the Parish may continue to be a vital participant in the life of the local community. The Service Portfolio Ministry volunteers are focused on service to the poor, sick, homebound and needy in our community and beyond.

Outreach

Visitation of the Sick

Our Visitation of the Sick ministries continued to reach out to many people who are elderly, sick, or hospitalized. We had more than 100 extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion who brought the Eucharist to people in area homes and health care facilities. Our parishioners visited Catholics at UNC Hospitals most days each week. We also collaborated with the Newman Center for ministry at Carol Woods and Galloway Ridge retirement communities to offer weekly Eucharist and quarterly masses. Visitar a los Enfermos gathers weekly to pray and visit our sick brothers and sisters in the hospital. Our increasing number of volunteers are able to help more families with some of their needs during their stay in the hospital and with having the priest come to visit the sick for confessions and communion. Some of our challenges are to identify Catholic patients in local hospitals.



Caring and Sharing Center

The Caring and Sharing Center is staffed by 70 volunteers. Guests from Orange, Durham, Chatham Counties, and beyond come to receive clothing, household goods, books, and toys free of charge. This year we served 7,038 adults. We received many generous donations from local families, our STM school children, TYM teens (almost 1,000 lbs. of clothing from the “Give it a-Weigh” drive!), and local churches. We are grateful for these as well as to the students at UNC Newman Center who helped us with our fall cleaning.

Environmental Stewardship Committee

The Environmental Stewardship Committee helped the school decrease waste and improve the recycling from lunches, resulting in an 82% increase in recycling for the school year! This enabled us to achieve our 35% target for recycling. Annual STM total recycling now exceeds 30 tons—more than doubling in 5 years! The STM 75th Anniversary events have minimal waste, maximum compost, and increased recycling. These “100% recyclable or compostable” events, such as the Parish Picnic and La Fiesta de Guadalupe, have now been established as part of the STM culture. We encouraged installation of solar installations on homes and at STM. On the Feast of St. Francis (Oct. 4), we prepared and served a free breakfast of organic local farm produce and presented and discussed materials from the Catholic Climate Covenant. On Earth Day (April 22), we prepared a table for the Masses with ideas for energy conservation and partnered with the Home and School Association to sponsor a variety of conservation events at the School during Earth Week. Additionally, improvements in the San Isidro Labrador community garden enabled us to donate more food to those in need.



Feria de la Salud

The Feria de la Salud ministry sponsored the Latino Health Fair which was a big success despite bad weather. More than 170 people were served by our dental and medical providers. We received a diocesan

grant, supplies from UNC School of Dentistry, and advertising help from Blue Cross/ Blue Shield. Also, UNC School of Pharmacy students are considering having a regular mini-screening at STM for our Spanish speaking community.

Financial Assistance Ministry

The Financial Assistance Ministry continued to provide emergency assistance to local families in need. Last year, we helped 359 families with an average of \$87 for rent and utilities. We also gave away almost \$3,000 of food cards which was possible due to parishioner generosity. Finally, we began collaboration with the San Isidro Garden project in summer months, so we were able to distribute fresh organic garden vegetables to those in need. The jalapeño peppers were a big hit!

Furniture Project

The Furniture Project has helped 420 families and individuals transitioning out of homelessness by providing furniture (and rugs, sheets, and other necessary incidentals), since its inception 3 years ago. There are now 16 churches, 1 synagogue, and 3 businesses participating in this ministry; a true ecumenical and community effort. We are in need of men and women with trucks to help pick up and deliver donations for families referred to us by IFC shelters, VA hospital, domestic violence centers, local school systems with children sleeping on floors (117 children helped in 2014), many UNC organizations, those seeking asylum from religious and political oppression, and many more.



Habitat for Humanity

The Habitat for Humanity team provided a steady core of volunteers who helped build our 23rd Habitat for Humanity Home in Orange County with our Building Hope partnership. We built on our most challenging sloped lot to date, which required several pony walls and creative scaffolding. Lunch was always provided for the volunteers. To assist with meeting the partnership’s construction costs, we raised more than \$1,200 by having a table of handmade items from the Habitat Building Hope Partnership at the St. Thomas More Holiday Craft Shoppe, the United Church Alternative Giving Fair, and at an STM Narthex table one weekend in December.

IFC Community Kitchen

The Inter-Faith Council (IFC) Community Kitchen ministry team serves lunch at the Community kitchen every third Friday of the month. We had some challenges this year, especially in the summer, finding enough volunteers to prepare and serve the food. In the coming year, we will consider working in both the Community Kitchen and the new IFC Men’s Shelter. We are looking for volunteers to help us serve lunch!

IFC Project Homestart

For the calendar year 2015, there are currently 26 IFC Project Homestart (a shelter for women and children) volunteers from STM and outside of the church who have signed up to provide a total of 89 dinners to the residents of the IFC’s women’s shelter. Our group is the main dinner provider for the current count of 9 residents (with sometimes up to as many as 18 residents). The STM group of volunteers provides anywhere from 5 to 15 dinners each month, depending on availability. The women and children at the shelter are very appreciative of these meals. We have a great group of volunteers, and would love to add more if you want to join a ministry where you love to cook and can share your culinary talents.

IFC Men’s Shelter

The IFC Men’s Shelter Ministry continues in its 10th year with several ministry members that have been with us since the beginning. We continue to have parishioners contact us to join the group as well. Two individuals help the evening staff each Tuesday with duties such as working as a receptionist, helping with dinner, checking in the guests, providing supplies that the men might need, and generally conversing with the men in a non-judgmental environment. We look forward to the opening of the new men’s shelter!

Meals on Wheels

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Meals on Wheels (MOW) project has 13 routes. Volunteers deliver an average of 155 meals daily. In 2014, over 38,000 meals were delivered. Stacey Yusko is the executive director and a member of the STM community. Many of the other volunteers are also STM members. There are many opportunities for volunteers with MOW.



Drivers, of course, but others are needed to organize the meals and have them ready for the drivers to distribute. Some volunteers also bake cookies or pick up fruit donated by local supermarkets. In addition, volunteers are needed to help with the various fundraisers held during the year. A recent fund raiser held in June, Dining for Dollars, provided donations that will cover the cost of more than 7,000 meals. Another fundraiser scheduled for October is a Golf Tournament to be held at Finley Golf Course in Chapel Hill.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee continues to provide grocery bags monthly for distribution at all masses and resulted in over 3,048 bags of groceries (through July 2015) donated by STM parishioners to the Inter-Faith Council's (IFC) Food Pantry—almost 20% of all food donated to the pantry. That is an increase of 3% from the previous year. The Outreach Committee collaborates with other churches to support the Crop Walk for Hunger; this year \$3,960 was raised. The Outreach Committee also sponsored two blood drives: one in the fall and another in the spring. We had 67 donors, and in the spring alone the drive “helped save the lives of up to 81 area patients.”



Justice United

Justice United (JU) is a collection of 23+ faith-based organizations, including STM. We focused on working in the community to address concerns around poverty, affordable housing, fair jobs and wages, and reconnecting communities. Teams are focused on connecting with the community to learn of concerns around housing, transportation and wages. A petition and walk for better transportation options in low

income communities is underway. El Centro Latino (a JU Member), has opened a Worker Center for day laborers. The Efland Community developed a Disaster Recovery Plan and is reconnecting their community. The Towns of Carrboro and Chapel Hill have provided needed funds exclusively for affordable housing based on the work of a JU-organized, countywide Coalition for Affordable Housing dedicated to increasing affordable homes for our community members and our workers.

Stars of Hope Quilters

Stars of Hope Quilters continue to make quilts for active duty and veteran military service members touched by war. We are part of a national organization, Quilts of Valor, founded in 2003 by a Blue Star mother and quilter to honor, comfort, and thank our military men and women. Through the efforts of local quilters and quilters from other parts of the state and the U.S. who responded to our need for quilts for special programs, we have awarded over 1,000 Quilts of Valor. Currently, we are making quilts to honor requests from individuals in North Carolina who served during conflicts from WWII through Afghanistan.

Support Circles

The Support Circles Program became part of the IFC this year, and with a new coordinator from IFC, the program continues to grow in the local community. The program trained more than 60 new volunteers during the year during two separate training sessions. In addition, St. Thomas More formed a new team which will support a family leaving IFC Project Home-start that is transitioning into housing in the local area. In addition, an existing support circle comprised of both St. Thomas More parishioners and Christ United Methodist Church members extended their time (normally one year) to continue supporting their partner family for an additional four months. This effort wrapped up a very successful year of support for that team.

Buildings and Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds Committee provides technical support to assure that the current and future facility needs for the parish and school are met.

In 2014-15, the Buildings and Grounds ministry was involved with:

- Capital projects in the church, including painting in the



parish center, renovations to the Youth House for dedication and the expansion of pantry storage in kitchen.

- Capital projects in the school, including flooring replacement and upgrades in 5 classrooms, swapping 2nd and 4th grade rooms in the lower school, and computer lab and Spanish classrooms in the middle school; painting for STM hall ceiling, carpet replacement in middle school hallways, and the installation of ceiling fans in lower school new wing

classrooms.

- Parish Pride Day: two editions in the fall of 2014 and spring of 2015. Besides the regular pruning, mulching, planting of seasonal flowers and dedicated upkeep of our campus grounds, we also replaced and planted additional trees in different areas on campus.

- All of these were completed thanks to the active support from our staff, parishioners, parish groups, and school families.

Communications

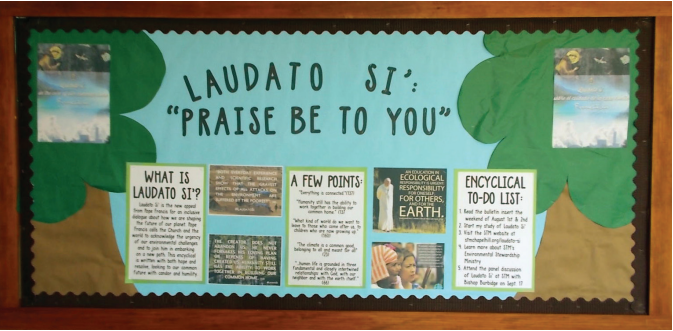
The Communications Committee’s mission is to develop creative and effective ways to consistently share God’s message, parish news and the ministry efforts of St. Thomas More with our parishioners, the school community, neighboring parishes, the Diocese of Raleigh, the Piedmont Deanery and the secular community.

The Communications Committee is made up of individuals—both staff and volunteer—who provide their creative talents in web design and development, photography, writing, display design and desktop publishing to spread the wonderful news about our vibrant community.



- One of the Communications Committee’s main responsibilities is to update the bulletin board in the Narthex.

- The TV in the narthex shows parish pictures, program advertisements and an updated weekly calendar.



- Complete with comprehensive promotions and bilingual signs, the 2015 Parish Festival was a huge collaboration of parish-wide talents, and a true communications success.

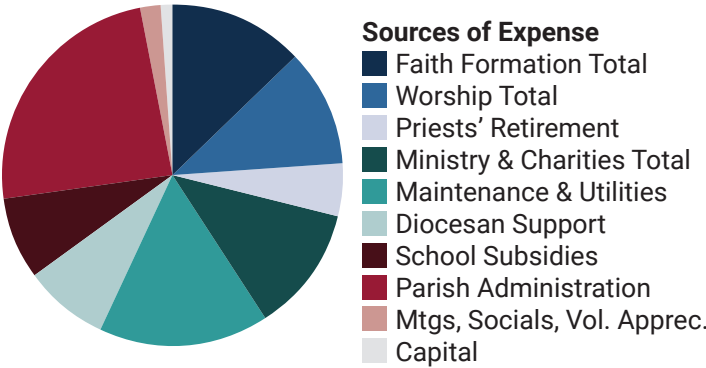
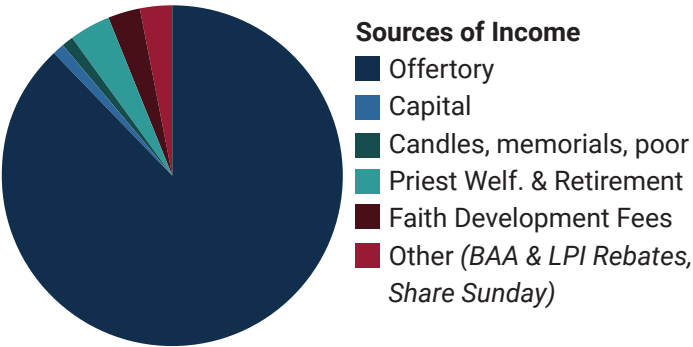
- Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) has become a daily tool for communication.

- The Web Committee continued to improve the functionality and design of the parish website.

- The weekly bilingual Sunday bulletin continues to be a source of information for upcoming events and notices of interest, as does the Church website.

Church Financials

	Budget Fiscal Year 2015	Actual Fiscal Year 2015	Budget Fiscal Year 2016
INCOME			
Ordinary			
Offertory	\$2,050,000	\$1,978,272	\$2,070,500
Mortgage	\$324,000	\$273,128	\$324,000
Capital	\$20,000	\$17,845	\$22,500
Other	\$29,820	\$19,773	\$29,820
Non-Ordinary			
Priest Welf. & Retirement	\$65,000	\$92,995	\$85,000
Faith Dev't Fees	\$68,500	\$59,104	\$64,000
Other	\$56,500	\$79,484	\$76,290
Total Income	\$2,613,820	\$2,520,600	\$2,672,110
DISBURSEMENTS			
Faith Formation Total	\$294,791	\$306,597	\$256,349
Worship Total	\$238,946	\$245,015	\$246,262
Priests' Retirement	\$116,580	\$117,342	\$118,580
Ministry & Charities Total	\$291,687	\$275,579	\$349,983
Other			
Maintenance & Utilities	\$374,848	\$374,572	\$384,342
Diocesan Support	\$180,000	\$179,044	\$182,000
School Subsidies	\$178,440	\$179,990	\$184,900
Parish Administration	\$516,828	\$538,734	\$545,287
Other			
Mtgs, Socials, Vol.Apprec.	\$32,700	\$36,261	\$17,700
Contingency/Savings	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Ordinary Expenses	\$2,224,820	\$2,253,135	\$2,285,403
Capital – Bldg,Furn/Equip,Parking	\$31,500	\$23,679	\$29,800
Capital – Fund (F & F Hall)	\$10,000	\$8,580	\$10,000
Capital – Church Reserve Fund	\$23,500	\$0	\$23,500
Total Capital	\$65,000	\$32,259	\$63,300
Total Expenditures (w/o Debt)	\$2,289,820	\$2,285,394	\$2,348,703
Debt Reduction/Mortgage	\$324,000	\$323,407	\$323,407
Total Expenditures	\$2,613,820	\$2,608,801	\$2,672,110



Letter from the Finance Council

Dear Parishioners of St. Thomas More:

On the page opposite this letter, please find the financial statement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, comparing actual results to budgeted amounts for the church, as well as the 2015-16 budget.

For 2014-15, the attached financial information reflects receipts, both ordinary and non-ordinary, as well as disbursements that are essentially categorized by ministry or area of responsibility. The statement, intended for the internal use of the parish, has been prepared by the parish administration, reviewed by the parish Finance Council, and submitted to the diocese.

We want to thank all whose generosity made it possible for us to continue to serve STM and our community. Unfortunately, our year ended with offertory contributions about 2.3% under the FY14 offertory. This amount was about 3.5% below budget targets. After some adjustments in certain services and expense lines, our income enabled us to meet most of our commitments to charity, to support our ministries, to support St Thomas More School and Cardinal Gibbons High School, and to manage some maintenance on our campus.

Some highlights:

- Our statement shows a \$38k deficit in the operation of the parish and a \$50k deficit in the mortgage collection at the end of the fiscal year. The Finance Council has approved the coverage of these deficits from the church's Contingency Savings Fund and Mortgage Reserve respectively.
- Our efforts in support of Catholic Education included \$330k to help with: STM School tuition assistance (\$152k), STM School portion of existing mortgage (\$150k), and Cardinal Gibbons High School support (\$28k). The support to the Priest Welfare and Retirement fund was much improved this year (\$93k vs \$65k budget), and our outreach ministries supported local charities and programs and social justice causes with \$92k.
- Most departmental expenditures stayed within budget for the year. We used a portion of our Capital budget to complete some needed maintenance and improvement projects, including parish center and Youth house painting and repairs to the rectory.

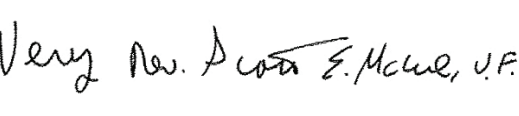
Our annual budgeting process includes soliciting budget requests from our ministries, aligning the budget with long-term strategies, and adjusting these to meet the diocesan requirements. This process occurs from February to May, with staff and the Finance Council assisting the rest of the parish by completing the necessary work.

For 2015-16, we have built a budget with 1% growth in offertory over the 2014-15 budget. This is then matched with an expenditure plan that includes few changes in maintenance and utilities, school subsidies, and administration. With parish growth and our personal sacrifices, we believe these goals are achievable.

It will be a challenging year, and we are all invited and encouraged to consider our support to the parish and its ministries, operation, and facilities. As our income in general has been stagnant over the past few years, it has not kept pace with our growth and needs of the community. It is critical that all of our almost four thousand families strive to practice Stewardship of our Time, our Talent, and our Treasure to help achieve our mission.

Let us all continue to pray and work for our faith and our church. We all hope to live up to our call to be good stewards of our Time, Talent and Treasure. We will do all that we can to help make sure that your continued commitment contributes to St. Thomas More's service to our members and to many others. Thank you for all you do for St. Thomas More!

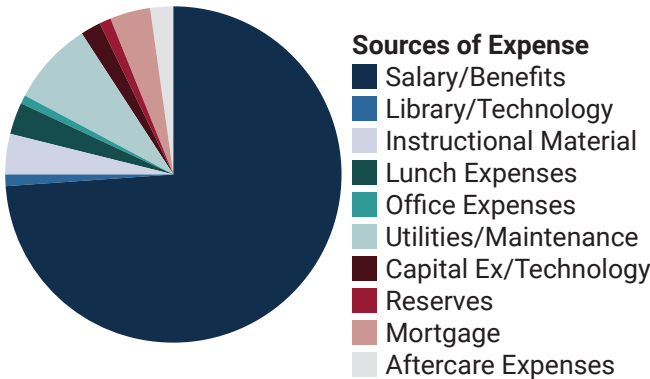
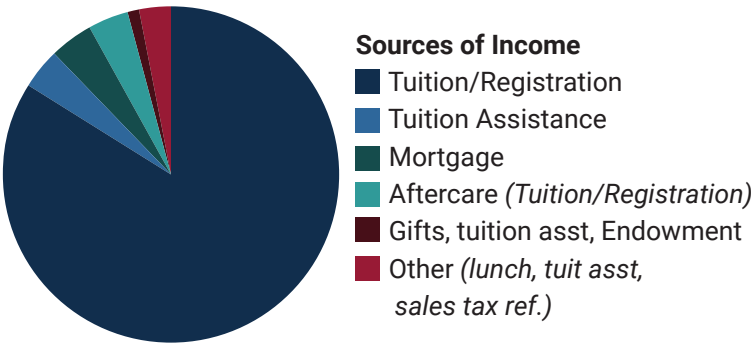

Carlos Lima
Parish Administrator


Very Rev. Scott E. McCue, V.F.
Pastor


Mary Ellen Gustainis
Finance Council Chair

School Financials

	Budget Fiscal Year 2015	Actual Fiscal Year 2015	Budget Fiscal Year 2016
INCOME			
Tuition/Registration	\$3,261,714	\$3,410,256	\$3,426,390
Parish Investment			
Tuition Assistance	\$152,440	\$152,440	\$157,000
Capital Investment	\$0	\$0	\$0
Mortgage	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Parish Investment Total	\$302,440	\$302,440	\$307,000
Aftercare (Tuition/Registration)	\$165,000	\$150,689	\$165,000
Other Income			
Gifts/Memorials	\$46,500	\$40,300	\$46,500
Other	\$118,500	\$117,998	\$118,500
Total Other Income	\$165,000	\$158,298	\$165,000
Total Income	\$3,894,154	\$4,021,683	\$4,063,390
DISBURSEMENTS			
Salary/Benefits	\$2,892,008	\$2,965,754	\$2,997,154
Library/Technology	\$39,750	\$48,932	\$53,750
Instructional Material	\$95,800	\$121,685	\$122,850
Student Supplies	\$10,000	\$20,559	\$20,000
Lunch Expenses	\$109,756	\$108,222	\$110,201
Office Expenses	\$57,200	\$59,326	\$62,100
Building/Grounds			
Utilities/Maintenance	\$319,000	\$313,387	\$332,500
Capital Expenditures	\$30,000	\$49,817	\$30,000
Computers	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$40,000
Reserves	\$45,000	\$56,645	\$45,000
Mortgage	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Total Building/Grounds	\$574,000	\$599,849	\$597,500
Aftercare Expenses	\$75,640	\$64,187	\$78,835
Contingency/Savings	\$40,000	\$2,000	\$21,000
Total Disbursements	\$3,894,154	\$3,990,514	\$4,063,390



Letter from the School Advisory Board

Dear Parishioners of St. Thomas More:

On the page opposite this letter, please find the school financial statement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 (FY15); as well as budget for 2015-16 (FY16). Actual results and budget are compared to budgeted amounts for FY15.

In FY15, the school again ended the year with a surplus, driven by higher than budgeted enrollment and by lower than expected expenses in some areas.

Some FY15 highlights:

- **Tuition and Registration** was \$149k over budget. This was the result of an actual enrollment of 457 vs. a budgeted enrollment of 442
- Overall **income** was \$128k over budget.
- **Salaries and Benefits** (74% of total budgeted expenses) were \$74k over budget, driven by changes and additions to the faculty and staff headcount to better serve the school population.
- **Instructional Materials** were \$26k over budget driven by increased spending in textbooks and workbooks.
- **Capital Reserves** were funded in excess by \$12k to help cover cost of summer projects.
- Overall, **expenses** were \$97k over budget

The net financial outcome for FY15 was a surplus of \$31k. Both the School Advisory Board and the Finance Council approved to allocate this surplus as follows: \$16k towards the Capital Reserve fund and \$15k towards Contingency Savings.


Enrollment for FY16 was projected at 456 based on an adjusted 3 year average. The base tuition rate was raised by 3.9% in order to support salary and benefits increases for faculty and staff, library/technology improvements, upgraded instructional materials, and support for our aftercare program.


Total expenses have increased by \$169k or 4%. This includes a \$105k increase in salary/benefits (bringing our faculty to 100% of the FY14 diocesan grid) and a 3% increase for administrative staff. Salaries and Benefits remains the largest expense for our school, comprising 74% of the budget.

We begin FY16 with a stable financial situation: our contingency savings are at \$220k or 5.4% of the budget, our Capital Reserves are at \$194k and are being fully funded (\$45k) every year. The generous support of the parish funded our tuition assistance program with \$157k this year, and provided \$150k in mortgage subsidy. We will continue to work diligently to control expenses to avert any adverse situations.

Our belief in the importance of Catholic education commits us to take the necessary steps to ensure that the school has the necessary resources to provide a vibrant education for our children. We are blessed with enthusiastic and talented leadership, with dedicated, licensed and expert faculty and staff, and with energetic and involved families. We intend to ensure that we provide the financial means and management that enables our school to continue to educate our children to excel in their spiritual, intellectual and social lives as they serve God and neighbor.

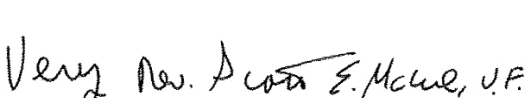
Your continuing support helps to make this all possible. Thanks again to all of you for your continuing generosity.


Dr. Maihan Vu
Chair, School Advisory Board


Greg Lissy
Treasurer, School Advisory Board


Dr. Michael Ashton
Principal, St. Thomas More School


Carlos Lima
Parish Administrator


Very Rev. Scott E. McCue, V.F.
Pastor

The Catholic Community of St. Thomas More

940 Carmichael Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Phone: 919.942.1040 **Fax:** 919.942.6193

www.stmchapelhill.org

Social: facebook.com/stthomasmore @st_thomas_more