

The Cathedral Star

December 2016 Vol. XVIII • No. 3

Stewardship

By Margaret Brosko

“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth,” said Muhammad Ali.

The Champ’s passing in early June drew the attention of a global audience. And, the message that our city sent to the world was one of compassion and love.

That’s what the Champ wanted.

Sure, Ali conquered the boxing world with powerful punches and, at times, punchy words, but his humanitarian efforts have an equally lasting impact. They brought people of different views and religions together under the umbrella of service to others.

In January, our Cathedral of the Assumption family will be asked to reflect on our role in helping others grow closer to God. Stewardship Month is a time to identify the gifts God has given us and offer thanksgiving in the way of service.

Fr. Michael will guide us in his homily in mid-January and representatives from all of the different ministries will be available to answer questions during a Stewardship Fair, the final weekend of the month.

We hope that you start to prayerfully think of ways to serve our parish family and the greater community.

Perhaps we can gain inspiration from Ali or other spiritual leaders who came before us, like Thomas Merton. Just blocks from our

house of worship stands a bronze plaque - not one commemorating a battle or political figure, but one that marks a magical experience that happened to the monk, Thomas Merton, in 1958.

“In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers....There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun,” said Merton.

Our way to show others that they shine like the sun is through service.

Pope Francis said, “A person who only

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CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION

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Stewardship

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thinks about building walls, wherever they may be, and not building bridges, is not Christian. This is not in the gospel.”

During this discernment time, we can ask ourselves if we are paying our rent, if we see others shining like that sun or if we are building bridges that are bringing others closer to God. If not, what can we do to

illuminate the gifts in others? How can we help our Parish family and those in our community reach their fullest potential?

Does it include serving at our Cathedral lunch program, participating in the Mass in a greater role or financially supporting a cause close to your heart? There are multiple ways to serve and share your many blessings.

God is calling. What is our answer?

By the Grace of God

This past March during Holy Week, Wednesday the 23rd to be exact, I had a morning meeting at the chancery with Archbishop Kurtz. I had a list with a handful of updates from the Vocation Office to pass along and another meeting to make an hour later. I strolled into the Archbishop's office ready to make my way down the list and be on my merry way. When I sat down, however, the Archbishop told me he wanted to discuss something else as well: my future. I had known a parish assignment might be on the horizon, but I was more focused on the items on my own list than what the Archbishop might have had on his. When he asked me if I wanted to start with my list or his, the answer was pretty obvious. “By all means, Archbishop, why don't you go first?”

There's a lot to be said for playing it cool, even and especially when one is not quite sure what they're doing. On top of this, one does not have to be a priest very long before you've seen and heard almost everything. Still, every once in a while, something so surprising happens that you can only tell your face to look normal and begin to wonder hurriedly what you'll think to say when it's your turn to speak. “Michael, I want you to become Rector of the Cathedral,” was one of those instances.

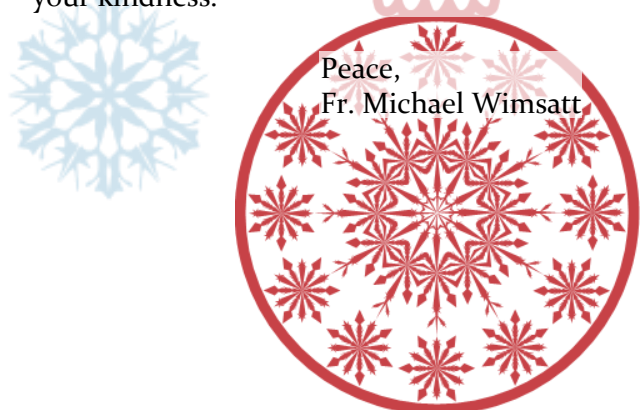
Coming to the Cathedral was a great surprise, and is still something of a surprise. Still, it is a rare wonder to be here at all and the past few months have been an incredible blessing. I still serve as Vocation Director, two and a half miles from the Cathedral at the Vocation Office, otherwise much has changed since June. Almost every day someone asks, “How do you like it so far?” It

is not easy to meet a question so simple with an answer just as simple. Let me put it this way. I have observed the following to be true in my life

and the lives of many others around me. When God asks more, He gives more. More of what exactly? This is where the answer is very simple: grace. When God asks more, He give more grace. God is asking more of me now, more than ever before, but He is also giving me more grace to work with and the same time. “How do I like it so far?” More than anything else, the past six months have been a very graced time in my life.

The Cathedral is a graced place. You know it even better than I do. Maybe you found grace when you came for the first time. Maybe you find it every time you come to worship. Maybe quietly you bless this place with grace yourself through your own prayers, your witness, and your presence. Thanks for being here. Thanks for your great hospitality and welcome. I'm glad to be here with you. May God continue to bless you for your kindness.

Peace,
Fr. Michael Wimsatt



Annual Parish Statistical Information

By: Angela Wiggins

Parish Population	Households	1,184
	Individual Members	2,503
Formation	Children and Youth in Religious Education	44
	RCIA Candidates and Catechumens	8
Sacraments and Rites	Baptisms	22
	First Eucharist	14
	Confirmations	13
	Marriages	28
	Funerals	12



Whom We Welcomed to the Cathedral

By: Angela Wiggins

In the past year our parish has opened doors to hundreds of pilgrims who came through the Holy Door of Mercy, which opened last December and closed this November, and to over 900 people who have toured the Archdiocese of Louisville History Center.

School groups that toured the Cathedral included: Sacred Heart Model School, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Agnes, St. Martha, St. Stephen Martyr, St. Gabriel, St. Dominic Springfield, Holy Trinity, St. Aloysius, St. Andrew Academy, St. Patrick, St. Athanasius, St. Margaret Mary, St. Joseph of Cold Springs KY, St. John Paul II, St. Albert the Great, Pleasure Ridge Park High School, Jefferson Community College World Religions Class.

Others touring included Joy Tours, The Sisters of Charity, St. Bernadette Men's Group, St. Michael RCIA, St. Anthony Parish of Indianapolis, and passengers on American Queen Cruises that docked in Louisville.

Parish/School Religious Education Programs that celebrated Confirmations at the Cathedral this year were St. Agnes, St. Martha, St. Stephen Martyr, Holy Family, St. Therese, and St. Rita.

Archdiocesan events at the Cathedral included: Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration,

Social Justice Workshop, Rite of Election, Ordination, choir rehearsals for Holy Week Chrism Mass and Ordination, the Office of Multicultural Ministry Pentecost Liturgy, African American History Celebration, Vocation Office events, Priests Council meeting, PCAL Meetings, Red Mass for those in the legal profession and White Mass for those in the medical profession.

Through March, Mass was celebrated here twice a month in the Syro-Malabar Rite. Each month there was a pro-life Mass at the Cathedral. Other groups welcomed here were Catholic Boy Scouts, Catholic Girl Scouts, St. Xavier (Mothers and Seniors Mass), Presentation (Ring Ceremony and Baccalaureate Mass), the Center Queen's Daughters (Mary's Day Rosary, Mass, and Brunch), Desales (Baccalaureate Mass), The Center for Interfaith Relations (board meetings and the Service of Thanksgiving for the annual Festival of Faiths), Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers Convention (prayer service and reception), the Louisville Orchestra (Christmas Concert), AA (weekly meetings), and the Kentucky Music Education Association Convention (choir competitions).



Highlights of our Parish Life this Year

By: Angela Wiggins

Administration and Finance

Hello and Goodbyes! This year brought changes to Cathedral Staff. In February, Business Manager Annette Roberts retired, and we welcomed Patti



Patti Birk

Birk on board. In May, Victoria Skaggs joined the team as receptionist. Our pastor for five years, Fr. Jeff Nicolas was named pastor of St. Bernadette parish and we welcomed our Ad-



Victoria Skaggs

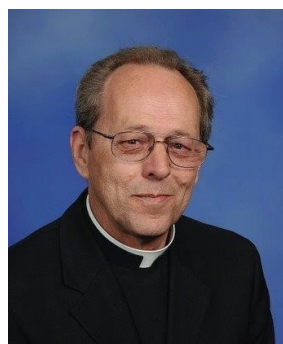
ministrators, Fr. Michael Wimsett in June. We were blessed to have a special visitor serving in the parish for six months, Fr. Lawrence Ezike.

(Father is back in Nigeria serving as Spiritual Director and Professor at Pope John Paul II Major Seminary in Anambra State). We lost a dear friend, Fr. Tony Olges, who died of cancer in July. Rest in peace.



Fr. Lawrence Ezike

Hurrahs! In May, the plaque to com-



Fr. Tony Olges

plement the Mother Catherine Spalding Statue was installed, and the Kentucky Historical Marker about the Cathedral was refurbished. The June LetsDanceLouisville Fundraiser was a huge success involving the community in



Psalms Reborn Performance

the care of the underserved who are our daily lunch guests. Over \$130,000 was raised for FeedMyNeighbor.

Parish Council and the Stewardship Committee are planning outreach to Louisville and Southern Indiana hotels and visitor centers and also rolling out a parish online directory.

Worship and Music

The Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, was marked by a Holy Door at the Cathedral. Special events surrounding this, besides the opening blessing and closing service, included *Twenty-four Hours for the Lord* and *Psalms Reborn*.

In addition to the weekend liturgy music, The Cathedral Singers and Cathedral Choir participated in *Psalms Reborn* and Advent Lessons and Carols. There were also several Kelty Endowed Organ Recitals throughout the year.

In November, over 100 liturgical ministers participated in Ministry Day at the Cathedral.

Other special events included a special Blessing for the Child in the Womb and a Blessing of the Animals.

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Annual Report: Operating Income Statement

INCOME	Fiscal Year Ending 06-30-2016			Year-vs-Year		
	Actual	Budget	Better (Worse)	2015-16	2014-15	Better (Worse)
Collections	861,685	850,400	11,285	861,685	883,198	(21,513)
Social Concerns	26,126	31,000	(4,874)	26,126	23,496	2,630
Feed My Neighbor-Fundraising	131,902	80,000	51,902	131,902	133,380	(1,478)
FMN Donations	23,543	15,000	8,543	23,543	33,979	(10,436)
Non-Parish Collection	(12,848)	(19,000)	6,152	(12,848)	(12,036)	(812)
Gifts & Bequests	49,716	44,093	5,623	49,716	96,415	(46,699)
Diocesan Subsidies	45,188	44,650	538	45,188	38,250	6,938
Interest	1,168	340	828	1,168	944	224
Miscellaneous	45,607	54,100	(8,493)	45,607	71,489	(25,882)
Total Income	1,172,086	1,100,583	71,503	1,172,086	1,269,113	(97,028)
EXPENSES						
Administration	341,374	321,712	(19,662)	341,374	351,593	10,219
Worship/Music	203,208	215,428	12,220	203,208	225,748	22,540
Parish Life	68,898	73,232	4,334	68,898	64,846	(51)
Formation	9,673	9,204	(469)	9,673	13,688	4,014
Social Concerns	2,992	5,887	2,895	2,992	5,107	2,115
Charitable Donations	2,500	2,500	0	2,500	16,000	13,500
Feed My Neighbor-Kitchen	119,996	124,300	4,304	119,996	133,014	13,018
Plant/Maintenance	292,265	265,620	(26,645)	292,265	269,029	(23,236)
Diocesan Assessments	96,898	72,600	(24,298)	96,898	69,081	(27,817)
Miscellaneous	2,919	10,100	7,181	2,919	4,875	1,956
Total Expenses	1,140,722	1,100,583	(40,139)	1,140,722	1,156,981	16,259
Net Surplus	31,363	0	31,363	31,363	112,132	(80,769)

Highlights of our Parish Life this Year

(Continued from page 4)

Parish Life/Stewardship

The cycle of Parish Life rolled on with receptions for the Chrism Mass, Advent Lessons and Carols, Psalms Reborn, Prayer Group annual gathering, Day of Remembrance, bereavement meals, and welcoming Fr. Michael. Our Spring Fling Thing celebrated with a Hoe Down. There was a front porch

picnic celebration send off for Father Jeff. Father Michael threw out the first pitch at Feastday Fest at Slugger Field, and a great time was had by all. This year's Filipino Festival brought in the most funds in recent history for our scholarship program. Parish Health arranged for Flu Shot Sunday at the Cathedral this fall and began offering blood pressure checks twice monthly for our daily lunch guests. We have started hosting Coffee and Donuts between the morning Masses on the first Sunday of

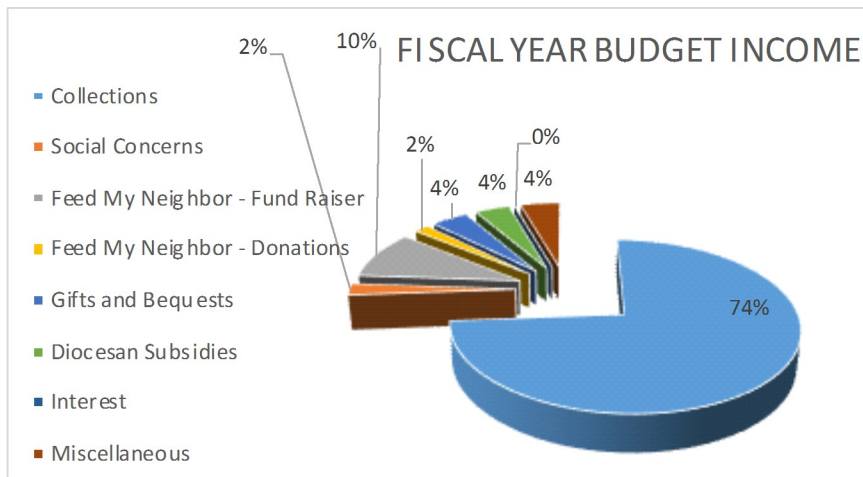
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Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget

(July 1, 2015—June 30, 2016)

Income

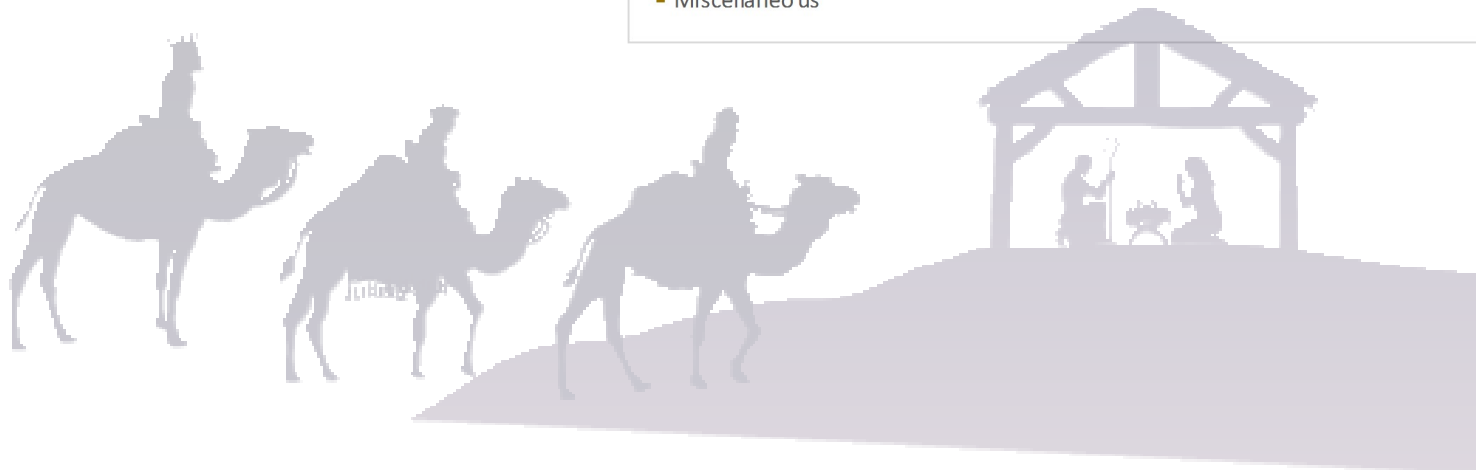
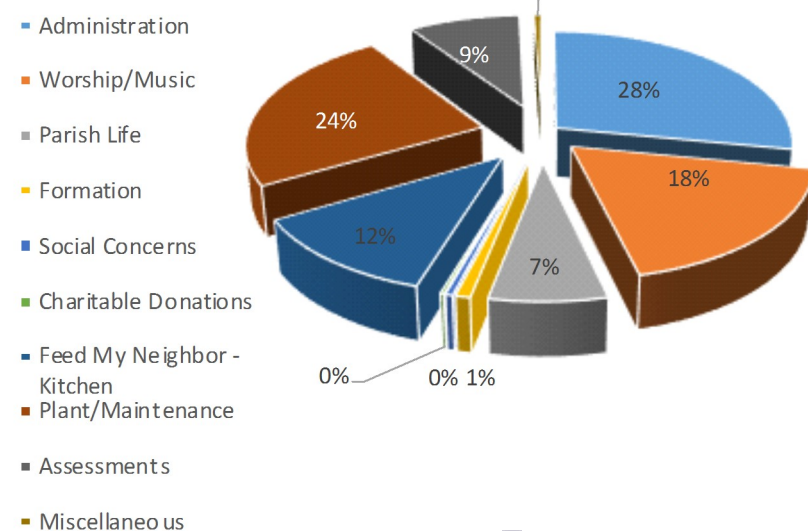
Collections - 74%	\$839,200
Social Concerns - 2%	\$26,000
Feed My Neighbor - Fund Raiser - 10%	\$110,000
Feed My Neighbor - 2%	\$19,000
Gifts & Bequests - 4%	\$47,000
Diocesan Subsidies - 4%	\$44,650
Interest - 0%	\$540
Miscellaneous - 4%	\$50,430
Total Income	1,136,820



Expenses

Administration - 28%	\$318,896
Worship/Music - 18%	\$207,444
Parish Life - 7%	\$77,552
Formation - 1%	\$9,750
Social Concerns - 0%	\$4,850
Charitable Donations - 0%	\$2,500
Feed My Neighbor - Kitchen - 12%	\$135,850
Plant/Maintenance - 24%	\$273,540
Assessments - 9%	\$100,300
Miscellaneous - 1%	\$6,138
Total Expenses	\$1,136,820

FISCAL YEAR BUDGET EXPENSES



Highlights of our Parish Life this Year

(Continued from page 5)

the month (will be skipping January). The Bishop Flaget Society (Planned Giving) hosted its annual members gathering in November, with dinner, a presentation, and an organ recital by Dr. Philip Brisson. Compassion's Fifth Sunday Collection for House of Ruth has raised thousands of dollars in cash and needed items for families impacted by AIDS/HIV.

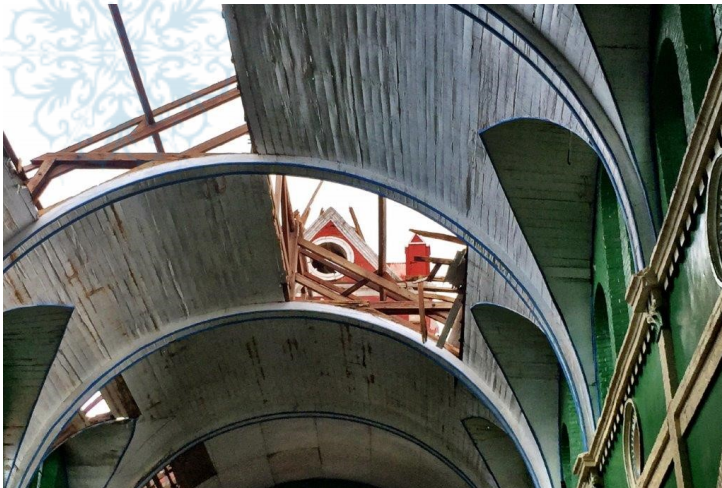
Social Concerns

Our Lunch program averaged 150 lunch guests per day, with over 330 volunteers making that possible throughout the year. The Social Concerns Committee hosted a Voting Your Conscience Panel Presentation on the evening of the last presidential debate. We continue to have parishioner involvement with Central Louisville Community Ministries, St. John's Center for Men, and Nativity Academy. This year's Repair Affair team installed an outside stairway for a family in Germantown. Toys were collected for children whose parents were incarcerated. Christmas gifts were collected for Nativity Academy students and family members, and hats and gloves were collected for our daily lunch guests. The biggest and most unplanned challenge has been the devastation of Hurricane Matthew in Jeremie, Haiti, where our Sister Parish, Cathedrale

St. Louis, is located. We've received in excess of \$2300 specifically aimed at relief since the October 4th hurricane. That's in addition to the roughly \$1500 each month you continue to provide for the lunch program at St Therese Montessori School. The need is ongoing.

Formation

In addition to our ongoing RCIA and Children's Religious Education Programs, Formation offered many other opportunities for enrichment including the monthly Catholic Book Club, and Catholic Movie Night, a retreat at Mount St. Francis, and many events and activities around the Year of Mercy. Art and Soul, a long time offering of art as a means of caring for our souls and becoming more spiritual, moved from Monday night gatherings to Wednesdays. The 7th and 8th grades and High School Religious Ed Youth participated in a Water with Blessings service project. The Formation Task Force Committee has been working diligently on offerings for the coming year. Be sure to watch for announcements of offerings that include Bible Study and a Parish Mission!



Missing Roof of Cathedrale St. Louis



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Cathedral of the Assumption

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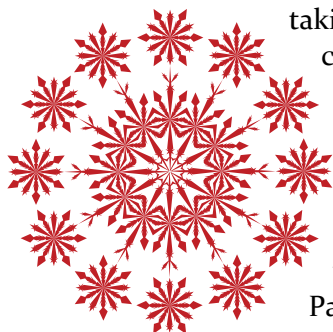
Parish Online Directory

By: Morgan Sprigler

Have you ever wondered “Who is that sitting next to me in church?” God calls us by name and we should call each other by name, too!

We invite you and your family to join us in the launch of our online Parish Directory by taking a few minutes to provide your contact information and have a photo taken! We will be gathering in the undercroft after all weekend Masses on January 28/29 during our Stewardship.

So many faces have been added to our parish family, not to mention a new Pastor! We are excited about this new project and look forward to showing you all of the great benefits of this directory!



The Cathedral Star Staff Members

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Masthead Design
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