

## St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Shrub Oak, NY

First Parish in the World Named in Honor of the First American-Born Saint

Founded 1963

# PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

## Fiscal Year September 2013 – August 2014

In keeping with Archdiocesan record keeping, this report covers the fiscal year 2013-2014. This is different than the report provided last year which covered the calendar year 2013. As a result the data from last year's report overlaps with the data of this year's report and is not immediately comparable.

In June we said farewell to our Pastor **Msgr. Thomas P. Sandi** who was appointed Administrator of Holy Trinity Church in Manhattan (<http://www.htcny.org>) after almost 12 years of service at SEAS. Also, **Fr. George Lodi**, Parochial Vicar at SEAS for 12 years, was appointed Parochial Vicar of St. Margaret of Cortona Church in Riverdale, the Bronx.

I was pleased to be appointed by Cardinal Dolan on July 1<sup>st</sup> as the new Administrator of SEAS after serving as Pastor of Holy Rosary Church in the Northeast Bronx for 13 years. **Fr. Brian Graebe** was sent to join me as Parochial Vicar with Fr. Rajan. Fr. Graebe had completed his first three years as a priest in St. Kateri Tekakwitha Church in Lagrangeville, Dutchess County (<http://saintkateriparish.com/>).

**Seton School** embraced a historic change with a strategic plan called, *Pathways to Excellence*, as of September 1, 2012, with the Archdiocesan-wide regionalization of (most) parish schools. Our school became part of the *Northern Westchester and Putnam School Region*. With a formal lease agreement, the Region assumed complete control and support of our school. Under the careful direction of Sr. Gabriel, our principal, the school has also begun a systematic downsizing from two of each grade to one of each grade. It is hoped that this will bring the school budget into balance.

As many of you know, Msgr. Sandi had begun investigating the feasibility of constructing a new parish center to meet the long standing need for parish meeting space. To date \$75,881.40 was expended to survey the church property and to find best spot for the new building. However, considering the high costs of new construction and the changing demographics of our parish community and geographic region, it seems wise to put the project on hold for the time being.

Some SEAS STATS for your consideration:

Baptisms: 88

First Communions: 193

Confirmations: 202

Marriages: 11

Funerals: 90

Religious Education Program: 1292 students

SETON Regional School: 298 students

Weekly Mass attendance (average):

Saturday Evening / Sunday Mass – 2446; Weekday Mass – 120.

Altar Servers: 61

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: 55

Lectors: 21

Ushers: 56

2014 Cardinals Stewardship Appeal: Goal: \$118,000 / Pledged \$139,488.83 / 555 gifts

(in 2014 we are the parish with the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest number of gifts/donors in Westchester/Putnam)

Christmas 2013: Attendance: 5,113; Collection Total: \$60,857.50

Easter 2013: Attendance: N/A, Collection Total: \$49,280.50