

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

September 2014 – August 2015

This report covers the fiscal year 2014-2015. Please note that over the past year, we have begun using the mandated Archdiocesan accounting and bookkeeping system. As a result, entries made in past years don't always match up with current categories. By next year our report will reflect better year-over-year consistency.

In October we said farewell to our dear Fr. Rajan who was assigned to St. Benedict's Church in the Bronx (<http://www.stbenedictchurchny.org/>) after almost 23 years of service at SEAS. So many people turned out to thank him and to say goodbye on his last weekend with us. We wish him the best in his new assignment!

I was pleased to be named pastor of SEAS by Cardinal Dolan on July 1st. Also in July, newly ordained Fr. Adolfo Novio was sent to join us as Parochial Vicar. In November, we welcomed a "visitor from the East" Fr. Madu, a priest of the Archdiocese of Colombo in Sri Lanka (<http://www.archdioceseofcolombo.com/>).

Seton School continues to make headway under the strategic plan called, *Pathways to Excellence*, as part of the *Northern Westchester and Putnam School Region*. This year we celebrate the School's 50th Anniversary. Under the careful guidance of Sr. Gabriel, our principal for 45 of those years, the school continues to develop. In addition to a strong Catholic-centered education, Seton school has also focused on keeping current with the introduction of Chromebooks (tablets) and the installation of a new security system.

An Archdiocesan mandated Increased Giving Campaign has enabled us to begin building up our cash reserves, as well as to continue with some much needed repairs. To date, we are realizing a \$1,500 increase in the weekly regular parish collection. A special note of thanks to those parishioners who have already stepped up to this commitment to help keep Seton on strong financial footing.

The newly reconstituted Finance and Parish Councils have been providing great leadership as we move forward. A special note of thanks to our Plant Manager, Deacon Richard Juliano, our Finance Council under the chairmanship of Mr. James Forbes, and our Parish Accountant, Mrs. Carmela Costa of Elite Accounting Services, for their assistance in assembling this report.

The following SEAS STATS (2014-2015) reflect stability in most areas. Two related trends are of pastoral concern, the decreasing number of births/baptisms and weddings. These trends are diocesan wide and our stats reflect the reality of life in Westchester County at this time. Next year's report will reveal a modest increase in these two areas.

Baptisms: 64 / First Communions: 195 / Confirmations: 213 / Marriages: 7

Funerals: 107

Religious Education Program: 1303 students

SETON Regional School: 278 students

Weekly Mass attendance (average): Saturday Evening / Sunday Mass - 2,465; Weekday Mass - 125

Christmas 2014 Mass attendance - 4,578 / Easter 2015 Mass attendance - 5,821

Altar Servers: 50 / Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: 71 / Lectors: 30 / Ushers: 58

2015 Cardinals Stewardship Appeal: Goal: \$114,500.00 / Pledged \$147,707.90 / 580 gifts