

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 2015 – August 2016

This report covers the fiscal year 2015-2016. Please note that we are now using the mandated Archdiocesan accounting and bookkeeping system. As a result, entries made in past years and reported in past Annual Reports may not match up with current categories.

In February we said farewell to our dear Deacon Richard and Helen Juliano upon their retirement to Delaware. They have been parishioners of 30 years and active participants in parish ministry for over 20 years. Deacon Rich also served as our Parish Facilities Manager. He has been of great help to both Msgr. Sandi and Fr. Quarato. The Parish looks and runs better as a result of his fine work.

In April we welcomed Mr. James Scolaro as the new Parish Manager, and we thank Deacon Rich for helping him become part of the Seton Parish Family. Welcome Jim!

Fr. Quarato was formally installed as pastor of SEAS by Bishop Peter J. Byrne, Regional Episcopal Vicar of Dutchess, Putnam and Northern Westchester on Trinity Sunday, May 22nd. It was a beautiful Liturgy and a lovely "big tent out back" reception.

We celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Seton School in 2016, and marked Sr. Gabriel's 45th year as principal. Her guidance and a strong faculty help maintain Seton as one of the largest and best Catholic schools in our region. Great alumni leadership and involvement with this celebration present us with new energy for school development.

Fr. Novio has been at work with teen and adult leaders on developing the new Youth Group. Each meeting gathers more and more teens and many more exciting ideas.

A special note of thanks to all Seton parishioners who have faithfully maintained their weekly offertory commitment to last year's *Increased Giving Campaign*. As a result, we have been able to build up our cash reserves, as well as to continue with needed repairs and updates.

Our Parish Trustees, Finance Council and Parish Council continue to provide great lay leadership as we plan for the future. We thank our Parish Staff, our Finance Council Chairman, 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 (2015-2016) reflect continuity from year to year. One area of ongoing pastoral concern is the low level of Mass attendance among our young families. This is a concern shared by our cluster parish partners, and the new Cluster Council has begun to consider this and other challenges.

Registered Families: 4,579 / Those receiving envelopes or on ParishPay: 2,130 / New Parishioners 158
Baptisms: 74 / First Communions: 231 / Confirmations: 169 / Marriages: 15 / Funerals: 80
2016-2017 Enrollments: Religious Education Program: 1,272 / Seton Regional School: 220
Average Weekly Mass attendance (as of Oct 2016): Saturday Evening / Sunday Mass - 2,376; Weekday Mass - 125
Christmas 2015 Mass attendance - 4,780 / Easter 2016 Mass attendance - 4,982
Altar Servers: 60 / Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: 70 / Lectors: 28 / Ushers: 44
2016 Cardinal's Stewardship Appeal (as of 12/16): Goal: \$115,500.00 / Pledged \$135,938 / 511 gifts