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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 2016 – August 2017

This report covers the fiscal year 2016-2017. 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.

This was the year for retirements.

In July we said farewell to our dear Sister Gabriel, who decided to step down as Principal of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Regional School. She has been involved with the school for 50 years and principal for over 43 years. Sister has certainly helped to shape our school and firmly establish it on the twin foundations of strong Catholic Faith and Academic Excellence. She is sorely missed.

In September we welcomed Mr. Brian Donahue, Jr. as our new Principal. Over the last few months he has transitioned very well while gaining the confidence of faculty and parents alike. Welcome Mr. Donahue!

In July, our organist Lana Kollath retired after 18 years of service to our parish. Lana's gentle touch and beautiful playing warmed out hearts for those years. Ms. Jennifer Lavoie joined our staff in August as Director of Sacred Music and Organist. She has been fast at work with our numerous choirs and the children of the parish. Welcome Ms. Lavoie!

Our kick-off weekend for Renew+Rebuild on October 21st-22nd launched the public phase of our \$1,845,000.00 Archdiocesan Capital Campaign. The premier project is the repurposing of the parish convent into a much needed parish center. So far the results have been quite extraordinary. As of December 31st, we were well on our way with \$1,368,275.00 pledged by our parishioners.

Father Madu celebrated 27 years of priestly ministry, and Fr. Quarato celebrated 25. As Fr. Novio reaches his third year mark in May of 2018, we anticipate his transfer this coming spring.

A special note of thanks to all Seton parishioners who have faithfully maintained their weekly offertory commitment to the last *Increased Giving Campaign*. As a result, we have been able to continue 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 (2016-2017) reflect a certain amount of continuity from year to year.

Registered Families: 4,642 / Those receiving envelopes or on ParishPay/WeShare: 2,171 / New Parishioners: 298

Baptisms: 77 / First Communions: 174 / Confirmations: 164 / Marriages: 14 / Funerals: 112

2017-2018 Enrollments: Religious Education Program: 1,279 / Seton Regional School: 183

Average Weekly Mass attendance (as of Oct 2017): Saturday Evening / Sunday Mass: 2,407; Weekday Mass: 140

Christmas 2016 Mass attendance: 4,776 / Easter 2017 Mass attendance: 4,975

Altar Servers: 61 / Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: 64 / Lectors: 34 / Ushers: 45

2017 Cardinal's Stewardship Appeal (Goal of \$114,500.00) is included in the Renew+Rebuild Capital Campaign

Renew+Rebuild Capital Campaign Goal \$1,845,000.00 / Pledged as of 1/30/18: \$1,526,858.00