



St. Cyril of Alexandria  
Alexandria Bay, NY

*Catholic Community of Alexandria*  
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St. Francis Xavier  
Redwood, NY

November 2009

Dear Members of our Parish Communities,

Each year in the fall we reflect on stewardship -- our stewardship as individuals in our parish communities and my stewardship in collaboration with the Parish Finance Council. In that light I am pleased to present the annual Financial Report for the Catholic Community of Alexandria. Your steady and generous sacrifices for our parish communities are evident and appreciated.

The first figures to look at for 2008-2009 are "*Total Ordinary Receipts*" and "*Total Ordinary Expenditures*":

<i>Total Ord. Receipts</i>	\$ 218,898.49
<i>Total Ord. Expense</i>	\$ 175,741.14

The next figures to look at are "*Total Extraordinary Receipts*" and "*Total Extraordinary Expenditures*." Our Extraordinary Receipts primarily involve money received through bequests from wills or donations (In the past year we did not receive any bequests.), and the return of monies we have on deposit with the diocese in the Loan Account. The Extraordinary Expenditures included liturgical books, completing the walls and steps for the shrine, plaster work and painting in St. Cyril's, and expanding the parking lot at St. Francis Xavier.

As of June 30th, we had \$ 85,000.00 on deposit in the Diocesan Loan Account and \$11,100.00 in the Foundation of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The Diocesan pays interest on these monies. The interest paid is noted as "*Interest*" under Auxiliary Ordinary Receipts. The money in the Foundation expresses our hope of "Building a Bridge for the Future" and individuals or the parish can add to this money in the Foundation (Forms are in either church, or contact me.).

In most parishes **church envelopes** are the backbone of parish income, our Ordinary Receipts. And, if you do not currently use envelopes, I encourage you to contact me and I will be glad to prepare a set for you. However, our situation is different because of our summer parishioners and our summer visitors. Some summer parishioners use *Envelopes* and their contributions are noted there. Most of our summer parishioners' or visitors' contributions are indicated as *Plate* offerings. And, as you see, they constitute a large percentage of our ordinary income. We are very grateful for their support.

Last year we conducted a *Parish Stewardship Appeal* which has helped our income dramatically. If you look at the previous year, you will see how much our "*Regular Ordinary Receipts*" have increased:

2008 - 2009	\$ 215 992.21
2007 - 2008	<u>\$ 172,378.99</u>
	\$ 43,613.22

This is due to an increase in parishioners and especially to your increased giving. It is also one sign of the vitality of our parish community as we seek to build the Kingdom of God..

As you review your stewardship, I would suggest that you consider *tithing*, that is, setting aside 10% of your income for charity. This is an ancient biblical practice of making a return to God for his goodness to you. That does not mean giving 10% of one's income to the Church, but rather 5% to the Church and 5% to other charities, such as the rescue squad, volunteer fire department, River Hospital, cancer research, famine relief, scouting, etc.

Our greatest potential for *Extraordinary Income* is in special gifts. In planning for the future, you may be able to assist our parish by including one of our churches or the diocese in your Estate Planning. Some legal titles are: The Catholic Community of Alexandria; The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, NY. If I can be of assistance to you, please contact me.

I would like to thank publicly the members of our Parish Finance Council for their dedication to our parish communities. With their help we strive to meet the needs of our parish and at the same time practice vigorous economy. When you have a chance, please take a moment to thank them: Gary Grausgruber and Jeanne Snow (Parish Trustees), Richard Company, Nancy Girard, Nelson "Butch" Helvig, Kevin Nelson and Katherine Welsh. And, feel free to contact any of us if you have any questions or comments on this report.

In conclusion, you, the members of our parish communities deserve thanks for your stewardship of **time, talent and treasure**. We are always interested in more parishioners becoming involved in various facets of parish life. I am grateful for your support and your prayers. I hope that you are proud of your parish and that you will continue to support it. Your comments on this Report and suggestions are most welcome.

Asking our Lord to bless you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev.) Douglas G. Comstock  
Pastor