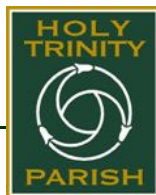




2006-2007  
ANNUAL  
PARISH-LIFE  
REPORT



*Gratefully Lifting Up to the Lord  
All That's Important in Our Lives*



*Love and gratitude are at the center of a well-lived life.*

*- Ann O'Shaughnessy*

### *A Snapshot of Our Faith Community*

Since its humble beginnings in the Silva Valley School gym over fifteen years ago, Holy Trinity has a long tradition of being a parish where, as the familiar hymn says, "all are welcome." This past year was no exception – more than 300 new families chose to join our close-knit parish community, bringing the total number of registered households to a record 2,870. These households represent more than 8,300 individual members of our parish.

Because numbers often help us understand the strength of what God has blessed us with here at Holy Trinity, it might be helpful to recognize that, during the year, Holy Trinity joyously received 118 infants into the Body of Christ in baptism, celebrated the union of 30 couples in marriage, and committed 22 fellow Christians to eternal rest.

At Holy Trinity, we have 1369 households with children and 1661 without children. 200 families have children in our school ministry, and 380 families have children in weekly Faith Formation classes. 4,772 of our parishioners are adults; 3,678 are children. Nearly one-third of our households have joined us within the past four years.

As we consider in this annual parish-life report what's truly important in our lives, we're elated that a record number of parishioners reflected on how they could, as the psalmist wrote, "repay the Lord for all the good He has done for me."

### *Liturgy*

Liturgy is our parish collective prayer of thanksgiving and praise, and Holy Trinity continues to keep Sunday liturgy as primary to the spiritual life of our community. A record-number 466 individuals belong to one or more of the twelve liturgical ministries serving the parish to make our liturgy welcoming and alive with participation. To keep our liturgies fresh, the ministry leads held annual meetings for their ministries and several training sessions for new ministers. Our corps of altar servers grew this year, and our lectors honed their skills by videotaping sessions for self evaluation.



In order to accommodate our growing parish, Mass times were changed for Holy Days and Masses were added for Easter. Lenten devotional opportunities were coordinated between the liturgy planning committee and other parish groups in order to give parishioners more options to join with one another in prayer. Bilingual liturgies were conducted on four feast days especially important to the Spanish-speaking community. In April, we welcomed Fr. Phil Wells to our pastoral team.

There was a change in leadership for several liturgical ministries as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. Among those changes, after three years as the head of our Liturgy Committee, Renee Healy, retired from her position where she coordinated the work of all the other liturgical ministries. Her work was always tireless and energetic. Our hearts are full of gratitude to the Lord for Renee and all who lead and participate in the liturgy of our parish.

## Faith Formation

The Faith Formation Ministry challenges our entire community, through lifelong catechesis, to grow in our Catholic faith. Gratefully lifting up their hearts to the Lord, last year, hundreds of households came forward to do just that: share our rich Story through study, dialog, reflection, prayer, and service. Eighty-seven catechists – sixteen were new to the team and seven were high school students – guided the catechesis of more than 900 children, both in Family



Faith Formation and Holy Trinity School. Expressing gratitude for all of God's blessings, learners reached out compassionately to those in need by serving meals for the Upper Room, assisting in food drives, making blankets for families, and collecting toiletries for the homeless. Families came together to share faith, pray and serve others at the annual Advent and Giving Tree community catechesis event. Children led the community in Lenten prayer through Stations of the Cross in a tableaux followed by a soup dinner and, through outdoor prayer, where they made cross posters that lined the Way of the Cross.

Striving to encounter Christ more fully, many participated in sacrament preparation and celebration. Sixteen catechists assisted parents in preparing 160 children for the celebration of Penance and Eucharist, while over 100 youth began or continued the two-year preparation for Confirmation. A team of eight catechists journeyed with 29 adults in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) who made a full profession of our Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil. Fifteen children participated in the same process, celebrating the sacraments of Initiation at the Vigil.

Adult formation continued through several Scripture study groups, a new "Theology by the Slice" book club, and a return of the requested "Deepen Your Understanding of the Mass."

## Holy Trinity School

Our Holy Trinity School ministry hopes to develop, as its mission statement proclaims, Christian leaders who "understand what it means to be a faithful disciple of Jesus, in true service to God and others." As such, the school ministry centered its focus on service during the 2006-07 year by supporting the parish vision and mission to be a Christ-centered community that responds to those in need. Students in kindergarten through eighth grades assisted young mothers, made hospital blankets, financially assisted the local SPCA; supported the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; reached out to our Spanish-speaking ministry, cared for our parish grounds, and helped out at the Upper Room.

As an educational institution, the school ministry excelled in many areas. 100% of our applicants were accepted into Catholic high schools in the Sacramento region. Our girls in grades 5-8 entered the Loretto Math Invitational and came away with top prizes, and students in grades 3-6 entered the Nature Bowl and were invited to the regional finals at CSUS. One of our eighth graders progressed to the Regional Bee which had 66 students representing 200,000 contestants. Students in grades 6 and 7 attended the Great Basis Outdoor Education Camp in order to experience the environment at a closer range.

Most importantly, the ministry remained a community where families share the joys, challenges, laughter, and tears that come from watching children grow and learn.



## Youth Ministry

Fulfilling our promise, Holy Trinity expanded its Youth Ministry program this year. As parishioners responded out of love and gratitude during the parish's fall Stewardship Renewal effort, the parish was able to invite Tim Rumery to become our full-time Director of Youth Ministry. In addition to weekly group meetings, our growing senior high youth ministry, Xtreme Faith, held events to build community, foster spiritual growth, and put our faith into action. Included in this year's program were: small group activities after our Monday night meeting, involvement in the Relay for Life event, hosting the parish's "Trick or Trunk" Halloween event, our Winter retreat in Tahoe, the 30-hour Famine retreat where fifty youth took part, Youth Day at the L.A. Congress, acting as hosts at the Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Conference, and an amazing week-long mission service trip to Tijuana, Mexico.

The spirited junior high school students of Holy Pride held monthly social and faith gatherings. Elements of faith, food and fun were elements at all of this group's events. Acting on our call to serve others, Holy Pride also planned and participated in service events throughout the year, including the Crop Walk to raise money and awareness of local hunger concerns.

Holy Trinity's enhanced youth programs – made possible because of the Stewardship of our community – are just in their infancy. Many new faces are responding, learning to be good stewards of all God has given them.



## Social and Service

Whoever coined the phrase “all work and no play” clearly wasn't a parishioner at Holy Trinity! Although we work hard, we also like to play hard ... because we know that “breaking bread” together helps to bind us together.

Our Coffee and Donuts Ministry faithfully encouraged all worshipers to enjoy refreshments and fellowship after Mass. (And, remembering we're a Stewardship parish where hospitality is key, coffee and donuts are now complimentary!) The Knights of Columbus sponsored enjoyable quarterly pancake breakfasts and assisted our Spanish-speaking Ministry with “Tacos Sunday” as well.

The social calendar at Holy Trinity is never lacking. The annual Harvest Festival was held in October, February brought the Valentine's Ball, the school ministry's Crab Feed was hosted in March and, in May, a sold-out dinner dance celebrated the parish's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary as well as Monsignor's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination. We also began a new tradition – the Parish Stewards Appreciation Dinner – which was held in October, where the parish staff says “thank you” to all those stewards who bring such vibrancy and life to our parish.



Holy Trinity has a proud tradition of serving the needs of our own parish family and those of the larger community, starting with a personal visit by one of the energetic members of our Welcoming Ministry to all newcomers to our parish.

Many newcomers to our parish are surprised to discover that Holy Trinity boasts over 60 active, dynamic ministries. With over 2,020 stewards involved in one or more of Holy Trinity's ministries, we like to think there's a place for everyone to share his or her talent! Last year, our ministries provided parishioners numerous opportunities for prayer and fellowship for moms, men, engaged couples, the Spanish-speaking, and countless others hungry to hear God's Word.

Other ministries helped those who suffered the loss of a loved one, assisted parishioners with rides to Mass, and brought the Eucharist to the homebound. A host of others served the immediate needs of our own parish by, among other tasks, assisting with mailings, counting the weekly collections, working in the office, and publicizing the work of the parish in our greater community.

Our Human Concerns Ministry supported the Mother Teresa Maternity Home, as well as the homeless and hungry of El Dorado County with significant financial assistance to both temporary housing and food assistance organizations. Parish families also sponsored 200 children through the Chiapas ministry.

## Parish Finances

After returning to God the gifts of time (through worship and prayer) and talent (through service in ministry), parishioners at Holy Trinity also returned to God a significant – and sacrificial – portion of their treasure. In November, as a part of our Stewardship Renewal, parishioners were asked to examine how God has blessed them and to begin the process of making an annual commitment of treasure back to the Lord, through the parish. Using any measure, our community's Stewardship of treasure was exemplary last year.

The generosity of our parishioners allowed Holy Trinity to end the fiscal year in a solid financial position. They gave generously to weekly and Holy Day collections, as well as the building fund (to pay off the loan on the Education Center and Social Center). Totalling nearly \$2.37 million, these contributions represented a 10% increase over the prior year.

Importantly, because of tight controls on spending, we were able to pay more than \$1.2 million toward the principal of our loan on the Education and Social Centers – surpassing last year’s amount by over \$530,000. (We paid an additional \$263,615 in interest.) As of June 30, 2007, we still owed \$3,818,521 on our loan.

Recognizing the responsibility to be good stewards of the donations of parishioners, led by our pastor, all parish staff understand the need to closely control the parish’s expenses. Nonetheless, we also understand the responsibility to invest in the life of the parish.

*2006-2007 Fiscal Year Income & Expenses and 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Budget*

INCOME	Actual 06-07	Budgeted 07-08
SUNDAY/HOLY DAY COLLECTIONS	1,261,638	1,382,979
SACRAMENTAL SERVICES	24,973	26,200
FACILITY USE/RENTAL (1)	186,966	39,000
DONATIONS & UNRESTRICTED GIFTS	1,656	1,700
CHARITABLE DONATIONS	98,940	85,100
FAITH FORMATION/BOOKSTORE	50,234	14,575
SCHOOL MINISTRY	1,296,973	1,035,296
PARISH PROGRAMS & MINISTRIES	45,543	33,840
SOCIAL EVENTS	14,483	15,905
OTHER RECEIPTS	16,163	15,600
"PATH OF FAITH"/BUILDING FUND DONATIONS (2)	1,314,967	1,075,865
DIOCESAN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	45,605	40,130
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>4,333,193</b>	<b>3,766,190</b>

1 – includes one-time facility payment from school ministry in 06-07  
 2 – includes advance from school ministry savings of \$200,000 in 06-07

EXPENSE	Actual 06-07	Budgeted 07-08
FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY	230,410	240,562
SCHOOL MINISTRY (2)	1,392,677	1,273,800
PARISH PROGRAMS & MINISTRIES	95,985	106,450
CHURCH (Liturgy/Maintenance/Utilities/Supplies)	111,340	116,430
OFFICE (Maintenance/Utilities/Supplies)	42,171	42,350
SOCIAL CENTER (Maint./Utilities/Supplies)	37,997	37,250
CHARITABLE DONATIONS	94,141	75,900
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	41,528	40,100
PROPERTY TAXES & INSURANCE	31,002	36,881
DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT	148,965	175,000
DIOCESAN CAPITAL FUND	189,141	2,100
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS & LAND	143,381	119,800
INTEREST ON LOAN	263,615	218,000
REPAYMENT ON LOAN PRINCIPAL	1,232,097	778,664
SALARIES/BENEFITS/TAXES (Clergy/Administrative/Facilities)	367,879	386,264
OTHER EXPENSES	31,909	42,347
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>4,454,238</b>	<b>3,691,898</b>

*Fulfilling Our Commitment to You*

Over the past few years, parishioners explained what they hoped a Stewardship parish would look like. They spoke of their dreams and hopes for our faith community. They spoke of a place where, as Christians, love and gratitude reigned at the center of all we do.

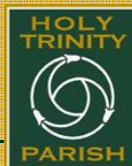
Last fall, when the parish asked all in our faith community to make a commitment to a Stewardship Way of Life, the parish also made a commitment to you. With your generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure in God’s name, we promised to begin putting into place your dreams for the parish. During this last year, we’re happy to report back and tell you that we’ve been able to begin:

- ✓ Setting aside a more generous portion of our budget for charitable donations
- ✓ Assisting parish families who are experiencing hardship or suffering
- ✓ Eliminating fees for all Faith Formation classes for Worshiping Stewards in the parish
- ✓ Investing in the needs of our school ministry
- ✓ Expanding our Youth Ministry for high school and middle school children
- ✓ Providing greater tuition assistance so more parish families can join Holy Trinity School
- ✓ Enhancing our Music Ministry at all weekend Masses
- ✓ Enhancing our parish grounds by completing additional landscaping projects



Our work isn’t finished, of course. With your help, Holy Trinity will continue to be known as that place on the hill where hands constantly lift up all that’s important in our lives – with love and gratitude – to our Heavenly Father.

2006-2007 ANNUAL



PARISH-LIFE REPORT

Two years ago, Holy Trinity Parish expanded its annual report from a report solely on our parish finances to a report on the entire life of the parish – the ministries and activities that help fulfill our vision of making the presence of Christ a positive, vibrant, and ever-growing spiritual and social experience.

Our parish life has always been centered in our commitment to living – and modeling for others – “A Stewardship Way of Life” where, in grateful appreciation for all He has given us, we seek to return to God our own selfless gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

The message of Stewardship is simple. It’s all about **gratitude**. It’s all about God’s goodness in our lives and how we can gratefully lift up to the Lord all that’s important in our lives.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James C. Kidder".

Rev. Msgr. James C. Kidder