



Randy Malick as St. Paul at Palm Sunday Evening of Sacred Music.

Intimacy with God

Randy Malick, the Director of Religious Education here at St. Hilary, recently agreed to share his personal reflections on prayer. In his own words...

"I think it's obvious that prayer is at the heart of the Christian life, because, to be a follower of Christ—a Christian—we have to be in a relationship of intimacy with him. Prayer is the key to that intimacy. And by intimacy, I mean a deep, personal heart-to-heart communication with God.

"In order for me to have an intimate communication, or conversations, with God, I must deliberately set time aside to be alone with Him. This is not easy and is something I struggle with on a daily basis. I think it's natural for us to guard our time jealously. I know it is for me. And it's too easy when we set our priorities for the day to focus on the practical matters at hand—to put first things first, with first seldom being God.

My best arguments

"When I struggle with myself on priorities for the day, I find I always use the same arguments—one, I am too busy and don't have the time to pray; and two, I have too many demands from people who really need me to be present to them.

"For me, I must fight those arguments on a daily basis and remind myself that the 'real' priority for me has to be to put God first. In the grand scope of my life and eternity, what's more important? Talking to God or the small tasks of the day? I find that if I don't make time to talk to God first in my day, things don't go as well for me.

"On the other hand, when I do wrestle myself into putting God first, I find that my day goes quite well. Over the years, I have consistently found that starting out with prayer makes my use of time much more efficient and makes me much more effective in my work and my relationships.

Staying in touch

"I first discovered the importance of giving time to God when I was in graduate school full time while also leading two groups on campus that consumed much time and attention—a very active right-to-life group and a very time-consuming men's faith-sharing group. I slowly began to realize that, when I started my day with quality communication with God, I got far more done and was far more successful than when I struggled with the busyness of being 'a leader.' It became clear to me that all God wanted was to be in close touch with me so He could guide and direct me, then at a certain point, I just needed to get out of the way and let Him lead.

"When I was in close touch with Him, things went very well. When I was not, things weren't as easy. As a matter of fact, I realized that the busier I got, the more time I needed to be in prayer. That became my favorite adage. It's as if God took what time I had to do my work and made so much more of it than if I hadn't prayed. My time in prayer gave me peace and clarity, kept me centered and made my days go more smoothly.

Surrendering

"Basically, I realized I just had to surrender to Him—turn my life over to Him—and trust His love. That way I could work with Him in His power instead of trying to use my own

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Speaking of Treasure

of parishioners to the offertory, and hopefully a sign of the slow recovery of the national economy. Again, Thank you!

Amidst this good news, there are still areas of challenge:

- On February 1 we outlined a plan to cut 6%, or \$180,000, of expenses from the school salary budget. This is coupled with a 6% increase in tuition for the 2010-2011 school year. These adjustments were necessary to offset declining financial support from the State of Ohio, as well as our response to a projected 4% reduction in enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year.
- There will be no salary increases budgeted for employees of either St. Hilary Parish or School, in the 2010-2011 fiscal year. This will be the second year in a row that wages have been frozen as we continually seek to balance our budget and remain in the black for this fiscal year and the coming fiscal year (July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011).
- We have also negotiated a rate reduction contract with a new electricity provider. This will result in an annual savings of approximately \$6,000.
- We are developing a grant-writing committee to seek funding for special educational programs at St. Hilary School, and we continue our efforts to raise funds for the School Endowment Fund through the St. Hilary Foundation Crystal Commemorative Program.

- We will continue to focus our efforts on increasing funding for St. Hilary School as we begin to celebrate the 50th anniversary of St. Hilary School beginning in August 2010. Alumni of the school are being sought out through the Alumni Facebook Page and are encouraged to engage in a friendly competition to raise funds for the School Endowment!

I would also like to encourage all parish families to seriously consider making a Stewardship Commitment. This is a great parish with over 95 ministries appealing to a wide variety of interests and ages. It is well worth your financial support! Stewardship materials were mailed to everyone, or can be found on the website at www.sthilarychurch.org. We have also introduced a program for online giving called *Faith Direct*. Check out the link on our web page or call the parish office to enroll. Online giving affords you the opportunity to conveniently make your gift of treasure and manage your offertory commitment, all within the privacy of your home or office. Again, thanks to all of you who are generously giving of your time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of your parish community. We appreciate all that you are doing to ensure the success of St. Hilary Parish and School.

In Christ,

Fr. Steven Brunovsky

My Dear Parishioners,

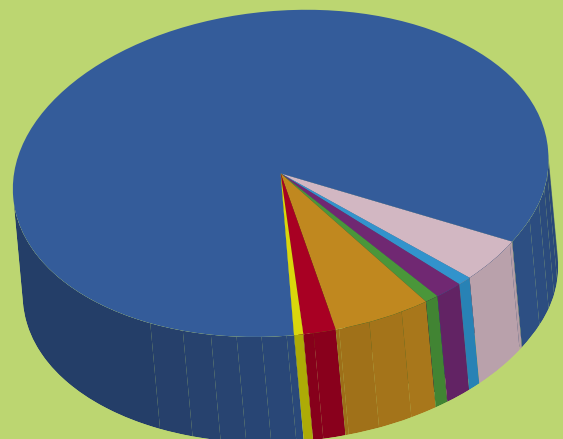
As we continue through the first part of 2010, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on the financial situation here at St. Hilary, and some of the continuing efforts to control our expenses and increase parishioner support. First of all I want to gratefully acknowledge all parish families that have made Stewardship Commitments of Treasure for the 2010 calendar year. At last count 627 families or 25% of households have completed a treasure commitment, with total pledges of \$1,268,052.00. This is a 72% increase in pledge amount from last year. Thank you! For those who have not pledged, we encourage you to do so. This enables us to forecast our potential offertory, and plan for the future.

If you are following the offertory statistics in the bulletin, you can see that we are running slightly ahead of our offertory goal! This is great news, as it shows a renewed commitment on the part

St. Hilary Church • REVENUE SOURCES AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL REVENUE

Seven Months Ending January 31, 2010

Offertory & Other Collections	\$1,141,310	84.50%
Donations & Bequests	55,172	4.00%
Fund Raising	9,994	0.70%
Church Programs	25,343	1.90%
Investment	7,650	0.60%
Church Ministries	79,180	5.90%
Designated Collections	27,822	2.10%
St. Hilary Foundation	\$3,493	0.30%

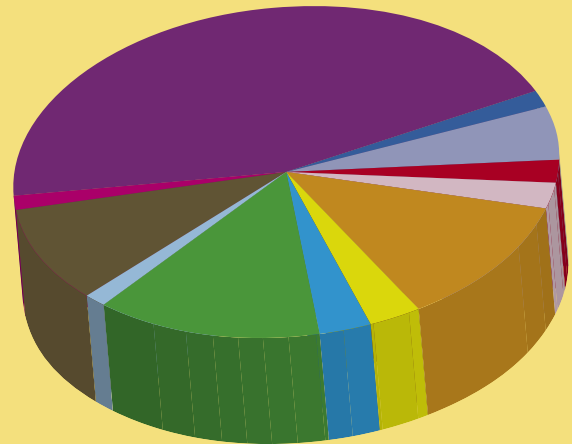


2 Total Church Revenue \$1,349,964 100.00%

St. Hilary Church • EXPENSE SOURCES AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL EXPENDITURES

Seven Months Ending January 31, 2010

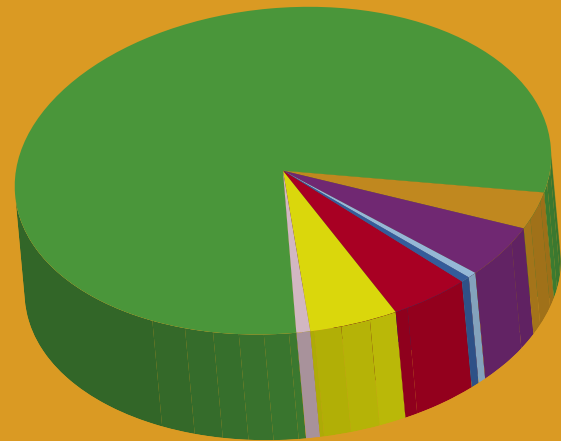
Salaries, Benefits & Taxes	\$401,090	44.20%
Rectories (Old & New)	15,611	1.70%
Administration	48,603	5.40%
Altar, Sanctuary, & Liturgical	18,649	2.10%
Community Outreach	23,739	2.60%
Religious Education & Evangelization	108,578	12.00%
Utilities	26,743	3.00%
Plant Operation	28,229	3.10%
Diocesan Assessments	122,267	13.50%
Designated Collections	12,586	1.40%
School Support	87,500	9.70%
Capital Expenditures	11,915	1.30%
Total Church Expenditures	\$905,510	100.00%



St. Hilary School • REVENUE SOURCES AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL REVENUE

Seven Months Ending January 31, 2010

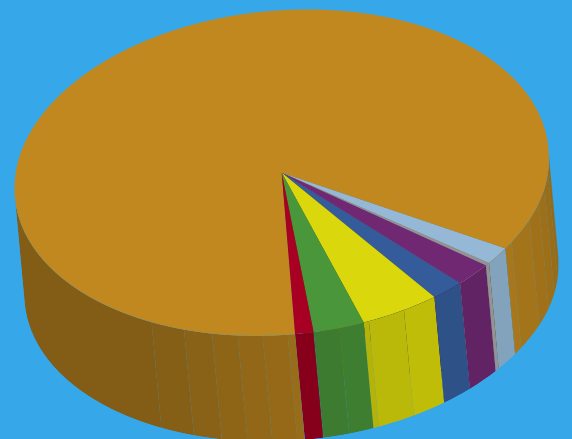
Tuition & Fees	\$1,365,167	79.60%
Mandated Services	59,763	3.50%
Fund Raising	88,492	5.20%
St. Hilary Foundation	8,000	0.50%
Net Playground & Latchkey	8,634	0.50%
Student Services	82,513	4.80%
School Support From Church	87,500	5.10%
Other	13,267	0.80%
Total School Revenue	\$1,713,336	100.00%



St. Hilary School • EXPENSE SOURCES AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL EXPENDITURES

Seven Months Ending January 31, 2010

Salaries, Benefits & Taxes	\$1,616,914	85.00%
Instructional Materials	33,669	1.80%
Library/ Technology	6,962	0.40%
Utilities	38,040	2.00%
Plant Operation	39,107	2.10%
Student Services	86,770	4.60%
Administration	61,467	3.20%
Capital Improvements	17,700	0.90%
Total School Expenditures	\$1,900,629	100.00%





KATIE GALLAGHER

“I went to church with my friend after a rough time in my life and felt very welcomed and at home. It felt like everything would be okay, so the choice was easy. RCIA has definitely changed my life. It was the best decision of my life.”



LISA LIEBY

“There were multiple factors that moved me to explore entry into the Catholic Church: friends, my fiancé, a humanities course in college, tradition, and common interests with other Catholics. Some of the surprising things about this process are the initiation rituals, which are similar to other initiations.”



TIM OLIVER

“My Mom has always been Catholic and we have always gone to church, so I decided to get baptized. The thing that has had the greatest impact on me during RCIA is learning that no matter what you do, God always forgives you.”

Seeking entry into the Church

Recently, many of the participants in the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program were asked to share with us the factors that moved them to seek entry into the Catholic Church. They also shared a bit about the impact that the RCIA process has had on them. Most will be received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil service on Holy Saturday, April 3.



BRADY OLIVER

“A friend got me interested in the church when I was in the fifth grade. Since being in RCIA, I have prayed more than in the past. The most rewarding part of the RCIA program has been all the people who listen to me week after week.”



MIKE NAUHER

“I decided to participate in RCIA to become closer to Jesus and to be baptized. The most rewarding aspect of RCIA has been learning all the ways to become closer to God and the sharing of others in our group about their own journeys.”



ED OLIVER

“It was the spirit and energy of St. Hilary Parish that moved me to explore entry into the Catholic Church. One of the most rewarding parts of the RCIA process is the people in the program—sponsors, team members and other candidates.”



CHLOE CUSIMANO

“I was interested in joining the Church because I am about to attend Walsh Jesuit High School, and I wanted to be able to participate in my morality classes there. The thing that has had the greatest impact on me in this process is how we can be more involved during Masses.”



NATALIE FEHRENBACH

“My family moved me to explore entry into the Catholic Church. I am married to a Catholic, and we are raising our children Catholic. The most rewarding aspect of the RCIA process for me has been the fact that we are given a better understanding of celebrating Mass. “



LAKESHA CHURCH

I discovered this was my year after talking to a nun about the religious life. Participating in the rites has been the most rewarding part. As a baptized Christian, it makes me excited to see so many people choosing Jesus as their saviour.”



HARRY COVINGTON

“I felt something missing in my life and, after much deliberation, I realized that I needed to complete the conversion to Catholicism. The most rewarding part of the process is that I have become convinced that conversion is the right thing for me.”



MARK GORE

“My family and my faith led me to explore entry into the Church. I truly needed to strengthen my faith. The most rewarding part of the RCIA program is realizing that you never stop learning. I have so much to work on and to accomplish, and I look forward to an incredible journey.”



SARAH STACY

“My brother Brian is a Capuchin Friar. During a visit to him in his new life, I experienced the most profound movement in my heart and soul. Seeing his life, I realized how much I had lost my own relationship with God in the past years, and it made me want to regain that love.”



DAWN WORKMAN-GASSER

Dawn is a baptized Lutheran who is raising her two boys in the Catholic Church. She is looking forward to being received into the Church later this year.



KYLE CHENEY

The RCIA experience has brought me closer to my family and the church community. I really feel a part of this wonderful community now. I have learned a great deal through RCIA, but realize this is only the beginning of my journey in faith.



TRACY NAUER

Tracy is a baptized Lutheran whose husband and daughters will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. Together they will be received into the Church. Her faith journey has led her to the Catholic church also.



St. Hilary School student Medha Venkat displays her work on a placemat to be given to her nursing home "buddy". St. Hilary School sixth graders correspond with "buddies" at local nursing homes throughout the school year.

Students in every grade at St. Hilary School have been very busy in the last few months serving others. Debbie Sinopoli, Director of Marketing for the school, reports on their generous efforts, including sending aid to Haiti.

Helping Haiti

"Our students and staff responded quickly to the earthquake crisis in Haiti by raising \$1,435 for the American Red Cross's relief efforts there. By participating in a dress-down day (no uniforms for a day), students and staff generously donated a dollar or more to help those in need in Haiti. In addition, nearly 300 pairs of shoes, blankets, clothing and other much-needed items for victims of the Haitian earthquake were collected by students in grades one, six and

ST. HILARY STUDENTS SERVE NEEDS OF MANY



St. Hilary School Student Council members (front row, left to right) AnnMarie Sabella, Anna Sentmanat, Ashton Zitzman, and Emerson Zitzman, and (back row, left to right) Grant Packo, Julia Sabella, Angela Giltner, Chris Pamer, Noah Craine, and Logan Kaim, and Student Council Adviser Mrs. Jodi Kleinfeld display some of the hundreds of coats they collected for those in need.

eight. Rescue efforts in Haiti also received support through the efforts of kindergarteners, first graders and second graders. Those students were inspired to help with rescue funding by the school's fire safety instructor, Lydia Wochna, who was on stand-by status to take one of her rescue dogs to help with earthquake relief.

"Seventh-grade French students wrote letters of support in French to students of Sainte Rose of Lima School in Haiti when they learned the school had been destroyed in the earthquake. The nun who supervises that school was extremely grateful for their prayers and thoughtfulness.

More aid locally and internationally

"School uniforms, stuffed animals, stickers, and cash donations were collected by our seventh grade students for the children in El Salvador. These items were delivered to El Salvador by school parent, Maria Morckel.

"The Student Council's Coats for Kids collection provided a record number of both child- and adult-sized coats and other winter gear for the homeless in Akron. Sheets and blankets also were collected by the fifth grade, and all winter clothing and bedding items were distributed to the homeless through the parish Social Concerns Committee. Local nursing home residents received student-made placements from their year-long buddies in the sixth grade. Stewart's Caring Place, which provides services to cancer patients and their families, received over \$150 from the Student Council's sale of strawberry-flavored milk, as well as Valentine cards fourth graders made for cancer patients. The school's Student Council also donated \$475 earned from its paper recycling program to Stewart's Caring Place. To support their fellow students, third graders made special gifts for the school's second grade students who are preparing for their First Communion."

Congratulations to all of our St. Hilary School students and staff for their great generosity and service to those in need!



St. Hilary School fourth grader Katherine McGrath works on a Valentine's Day card for an individual assisted by Stewart's Caring Place in Fairlawn.



Learning from the children

“Another important lesson I have learned about my relationship with God has been taught by my children. The first time was when I changed the diaper of our first born, Lily, while she was still in the hospital. When I lifted up her tiny feet, she scowled at me, cried and pulled away. I was surprised by the reaction. After I mulled it over, though, I realized that this is how I often react to God, although I’m on the other end of the ‘divine diaper change.’ I pull away and am unhappy with change, not realizing that He is just trying to help me, clean me up and get me out of trouble.

strength. This was a surprising insight into leadership for me—to realize that my real job was to be a facilitator for Him. To help prepare the way, then let Him move in the lives of the people I was working with.

“I think we all tend to want a human leader, but what God wants is for us to be in service of what He wants, not what we want. Figuring out what He wants takes time and listening.

“I’ve learned that my prayer relationship with God is like an intimate relationship with another person. In each case, you can’t be close to someone if you stand far off from them. You have to foster the relationship by drawing near to each other. If both parties are not fully giving themselves to each other, intimacy can’t be fostered. A favorite analogy of mine is that you can stand out in the cold and look at a fire from a distance, but until you move close to it, you won’t be warmed by the fire or receive its full light. The same applies to our moving toward God.

“The same lesson has been taught to me when my children argue with me and talk as if they know better than I do. One day it occurred to me that this is what I do with God—thinking that I know better and fighting Him on His will for me. As a child of God, I try to remember to trust that He knows what’s right for me.

Being in the presence

“So, it is a constant struggle for me to make time with God a priority in my life. When I am in prayer, I try to do a lot of listening, intercession, praise and thanksgiving. I also find that when I am able to pray before the Blessed Sacrament in church or in the chapel, God’s presence is very real for me, very powerful. It seems that my prayer there is more intense and takes less time. For me it’s like the difference between having an intimate conversation with my spouse in the bedroom versus talking long distance. Nothing is better than being in the presence of the one we love.

“Jesus told us to love God first and love our neighbor as ourselves. That means God is to be our first priority—but intimately connected to that is our relationship with others. Our love for God includes our love for others and is measured by our love for them.

“Spending time with God pales in comparison to whatever else I think is important. It must come first. Once I’ve done that, everything else seems to fall into place.

“To know the mind of God is impossible for us, of course. But I believe that if we communicate with Him regularly, we can come to know His heart as He knows ours.”



John 15: 4-5. “You remain in me as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.”

April 2010



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Fairlawn, OH 44333-4236

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Pray for
8th graders
being confirmed
on April 17

INSIDE:

Intimacy with God

Speaking of Treasure

Seeking entry into the Church

St. Hilary students serve
needs of many

This Newsletter is brought to you
by the Stewardship Committee at
St HILARY PARISH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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Have feedback on this newsletter?
Contact Lyn Schott at 330-867-1055

Karen Moran, Writer

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Catholics Come Home

Have you been away from
the Church?

Do you have questions about
your Catholic Faith?

God wants His love to become
a foundation for your life.
He will never abandon His people
because He loves them -
because He loves us.

For information, contact
Pat Schnee at our parish office
or go to
www.catholicscomehome.org

Characteristics of a Christian Steward



Prayer is at the
heart of the
Christian life. Make
time to talk to God
each day.