



## GROWING DISCIPLES AT HOME

# Your HOME is a domestic church

## Parents as priest-children as disciples

A child's home is the first and most enduring place where he or she learns about love, God, faith, moral values, prayer and core beliefs. As a parent, we are our child's first "priest"—the first voice of love, spirituality and religion. Our child is our disciple—a follower of us and our teachings, learning at our knee and at our table.

It is daunting to consider the gravity of the life-altering impact a parent has on a child. When God the Father created family through Adam and Eve, He gave parents the responsibility to be His representative to their children. God also confers powerful graces during their marriage sacrament to help mothers and fathers meet God's most critical expectation of us as parents.

### The power of a parent's voice

As a parent, we are charged by our Father God with the task of reflecting His voice to our child. He has given over His fatherly power to us to serve as our child's first teacher. The earliest voice our baby hears murmurs sounds of comfort. As our child grows, our parent's voice is challenged with many more choices. As I speak to my child, is my voice soft or harsh, loving or critical, crude or refined, irreverent or reverent? Do I reassure or disapprove, coach or criticize, challenge or support, accept or reject? Do I speak of God and Jesus? Model trust, loving acceptance, tolerance and peace? Is our home a small yet powerful seat of Christianity?

### Twenty-first century America

As our secular culture becomes increasingly anti-family, anti-God, anti-Christianity, anti-religion, anti-morality, even anti-marriage, the job of parenting becomes increasingly more difficult. In his book *Stewardship in America:*

*A Countercultural Way of Life*, author Dan Conway observes: "We are witnessing today a grave and serious dissolution of traditional forms of Christian marriage and family life."

### Church speaks out on parenting

In response to the decline of marriage and families in today's society, Popes and Bishops have spoken out on the subject. Speaking in Mexico City early in his pontificate, Pope John Paul II asserted:

Many insidious forces are endangering the solidity of the institution of the family in most countries of America, and these represent so many challenges for Christians. Among them we should mention the increase in divorce, the spread of abortion, infanticide and the contraceptive mentality. . . . Greater pastoral attention must be given to the role of men as husbands and fathers, as well as to the responsibility which they share with their wives for their marriage, the family and the raising of their children. (*Ecclesia in America, 1999*)

In 2002, The US Conference of Catholic Bishops stated that teaching Christian values to children in the domestic church. . . . may require adjusting the family's own patterns of consumption and its lifestyle, including the use of television and other media which sometimes preach values in conflict with the mind of Christ. (*Stewardship: A Disciples Response*)

### A series of articles to follow

In the following months, we will explore many aspects of parenting and family life to meet the challenges families face today. We will invite your input into this most important topic of the family as a modern domestic church.



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“If there were even the slightest possibility that your marriage could be better and the two of you could be happier together, wouldn’t you take advantage of it?”

Bernie Geary

# A perfect getaway with your spouse

Get closer together on a private weekend

*Imagine a weekend away with your spouse. Together you have decided to spend the weekend focusing on your marriage and ways to make it even better. You will think about it, listen to some thought-provoking insights, spend time alone to reflect, then share your thoughts in the privacy of your hotel room.*

*Called a Marriage Encounter weekend, the experience is designed for couples in an average marriage (no marriage is perfect) that could benefit from being revitalized. As a private experience between husband and wife with no group sharing, this unique scenario is experienced by thousands of married couples across the nation and in 80 countries. It is available to couples of all ages and stages of marriage, both Catholic and non-Catholic. So, if you are looking for the perfect weekend that can bring you and your spouse closer together, this is it!*

*A number of St. Hilary parishioners have attended a Marriage Encounter weekend. In January, two parish couples shared their weekend experience at Masses in what are called “Pulpit Talks.” They share here the essence of their witness.*

## BERNIE AND JODY GEARY

Bernie and Jody Geary gave their “Pulpit Talk” at the 9, 11 and 5:30 Masses on January 16.

**BERNIE:** “I began our presentation this way: ‘Do you remember how fun it was to date your future spouse? Do you remember your wedding day, your honeymoon, and your early years of marriage—how thrilled and happy you were? We want to speak to those whose marriages don’t quite feel like that anymore. We want to talk about Worldwide Marriage Encounter and invite you to give this wonderful gift to each other.’”

“We invite you to rediscover the riches in each other...and to discover hidden treasures in your relationship.”

Jody Geary

**JODY:** “Bernie and I set up our first home in North Royalton. We were able to be spontaneous and enjoy life on two incomes. Our honeymoon stage lasted until our first child was born almost five years later. The pressures of Bernie’s work, raising a child and volunteer activities started to take away the time we spent really talking with each other. We had a good marriage and still loved each other but seemed too busy or too tired to show it as much as before.

“Several years later and with an invitation from my parents, we attended a Worldwide

Marriage Encounter weekend. We heard it was for couples with good marriages that could use a way to strengthen and revitalize their relationship. That was important to us because we did not really have any big marital problems. We went with hopes of renewing our marriage.”



Jody and Bernie Geary

**BERNIE:** “I think that, if most married people thought there were even the slightest possibility that their marriage could be better and that both spouses could be happier together, they would take advantage of it. The Marriage Encounter weekend is widely known to be a powerful and uplifting experience for marriages. After hearing presentations on a variety of topics on marriage, couples are given private time to reflect on the topics, the tools they learn for communicating effectively with their spouse.”

**JODY:** “We invite you to rediscover the riches in each other that you may have forgotten and to discover hidden treasures in your relationship that you have not yet realized. If you have a good marriage that could use a boost, we highly recommend you sign up for a Marriage Encounter weekend. If you have already made a Marriage Encounter, we would like to suggest making another, particularly if it has been more than five years since the last weekend you attended. The format was changed about ten years ago, and it might just be the spark your marriage needs right now. If you are in a troubled marriage with major problems, we recommend you attend a Retrouvaille weekend. Any of these options could make a tremendous difference in your life and your marriage.”

### MATTHEW AND DENISE FRESH

The Freshes presented their experience of Marriage encounter at the 7:30 am Mass on January 16.

**MATTHEW:** “When we spoke at Mass, our goal was to talk about our marriage and the impact that Marriage Encounter has had on deepening our relationship. We also invited married parishioners to give to each other this wonderful gift of time for a weekend away.”

**DENISE:** “Matthew and I met in 1980, married in 1985, and had our first child in 1992. From the very beginning, our relationship has been filled with joy and blessings. We had a good marriage and loved each other very much, but we were not showing it as much as we did in the early years of our marriage. The pressures and the busyness of life started to choke out the time we spent talking to each other.



*Denise and Matthew Fresh*

“For our 15th wedding anniversary, we attended a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. We heard the weekend was for couples with good marriages who want to make them better. That was good for us because we did not have any significant problems in our marriage. I invited Matthew just to see what the weekend was all about.”

**MATTHEW:** “The Marriage Encounter weekend is time away from the distractions of the world. Presentations by several couples and a priest help you focus on different aspects of married life. The weekend starts on Friday night at 8:00 PM and ends with a Mass on Sunday at 4:00 PM.

“There is NO group discussion. After each talk, in the privacy of your room, you reflect on the topic using the communication tools you learn.

This is a totally private experience between husband and wife. The Marriage Encounter weekend has been one of the best things we've done to strengthen our relationship. It improved the spirituality, intimacy, and romance in our marriage.”

“Marriage Encounter improved the spirituality, intimacy, and romance in our marriage.”

Matthew Fresh

**DENISE:** “The Marriage Encounter weekend is a powerful and uplifting experience for marriage relationships. Pope John Paul II was quoted as saying, “I place much of my hope for the future in Marriage Encounter.”

### MAKE A DATE!

Save a place for you and your spouse at one of the upcoming Marriage Encounter weekends. Costs are covered by a \$50 registration fee plus free-will donations from participants. No one should let finances stop them from attending a Marriage Encounter weekend. *(See the listing below for details.)*

The Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is for couples with good marriages who want their marriage to be better. For marriages that are troubled or for those thinking of divorce, there is a weekend experience called *Retrouvaille*.

## Marriage Encounter weekends sponsored by Eastern Ohio Marriage Encounter and by Cleveland Marriage Encounter:

Feb 11-13, at Cambria Suites, Green, OH

April 15 -17, at Springhill Suites, Solon, OH

July 15-17, at the Holiday Inn, Marietta, Ohio

July 29-31, at Springhill Suites, Solon, Ohio

October 21-23, at Cambria Suites in Green, Ohio

Oct 14-16, at Springhill Suites, Solon, OH

Oct. 21-23, at Cambria Suites, Green, OH

To make reservations for one of the upcoming weekends in the Akron or Cleveland areas, or for more information on Worldwide Marriage Encounter, call an area coordinator at 330 305-WWME (9963) or (440) 899-9002; email WorldwideME@sbcglobal.net; or visit the Worldwide Marriage Encounter website at [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org), where you can find weekend dates all over the country, and you can register online.

For more information on *Retrouvaille* visit their website at [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org) or [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org). The next Retrouvaille weekends are February 25-27 in the Youngstown area and April 1-3 in Beechwood. For Youngstown area call 330-979-7787 or email [retro3035@aol.com](mailto:retro3035@aol.com). For Cleveland area call call 330 665-3506 or email [3831@retrouvaille.org](mailto:3831@retrouvaille.org).

# With **Gratitude** for your Stewardship of Treasure

From Lou Camerato, Business Manager

We are happy to report that during the first half of our fiscal year (June 30 – December 31, 2010) our offertory collections rose by \$23,000 (or 2.3%) over last year's offertory. Your generosity in sharing your resources will help the Parish in significant ways. You will also notice that our budgeted surplus is over \$41,000 (4%) ahead of expenditures year to date. This surplus can be attributed not only to increases in offertory collections but also to more effective management of our expenses.

The additional funds will allow us to carry out the mission of the Parish and see us through periods of reduction in revenue, typically occurring in the month of June, when we face a significant reduction in tuition revenue. Our tuition revenue reporting runs from July 1 – May 31 each fiscal year.

Although we are currently reporting a net surplus of over \$300,000, the projected net surplus at the end of this fiscal year will be closer to \$200,000. Over \$30,000 of this projected surplus will be directed to upcoming capital expenditures at the school, which are scheduled to begin July 2011.

## ASSETS & LIABILITIES

### Saint Hilary Church and School

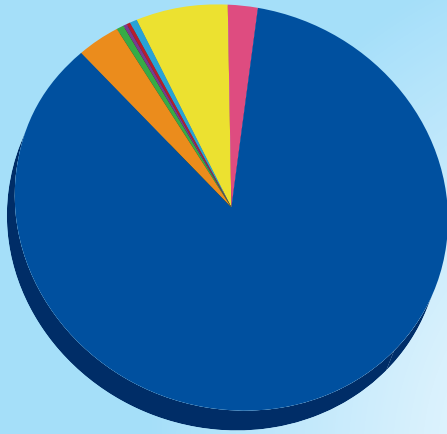
	12/31/2010	12/31/2009
Checking Accounts - Parish	\$167,013	\$144,453
Savings & Investments - Parish	665,537	422,707
Other Assets	75,165	57,159
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$907,715</b>	<b>\$624,319</b>
Accounts Payable & Other Liabilities	\$81,215	\$42,707
Income Received In Advance	459,290	431,433
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>367,210</b>	<b>150,179</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$907,715</b>	<b>\$624,319</b>

**Thank you for your continued financial commitment to St. Hilary Parish. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.**



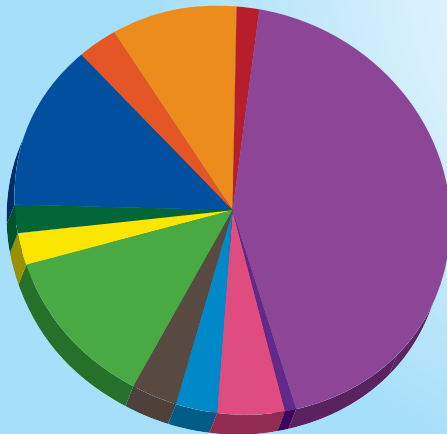
# St. Hilary Church

## Revenue Sources as a Percent of Total Revenue Six Months Ended December 31, 2010



85.80%	\$999,946	Offertory & Other Collections
3.30%	38,740	Donations & Bequests
0.60%	7,155	Fund Raising
0.30%	3,216	Church Programs
0.20%	2,519	Investment
0.70%	7,850	Rental (old rectory)
6.90%	79,784	Church Ministries
2.20%	25,036	Designated Collections
0.00%	0	St. Hilary Foundation
100%	\$1,164,246	TOTAL CHURCH REVENUE

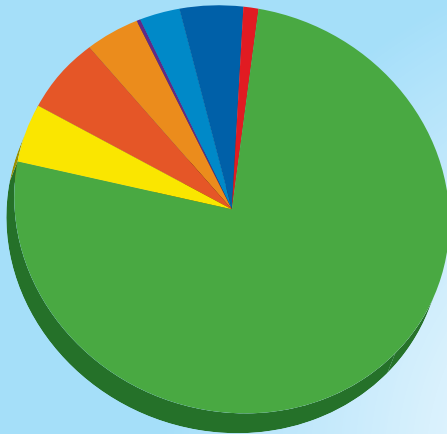
## Expense Sources as a Percent of Total Expenditures Six Months Ended December 31, 2010



43.30%	\$338,156	Salaries, Benefits & Taxes
1.00%	7,158	Rectories (Old & New)
5.10%	40,003	Administration
3.00%	23,616	Altar, Sanctuary, & Liturgical
3.20%	25,149	Community Outreach
12.40%	96,658	Religious Education & Evangelization
2.30%	18,258	Utilities
0.00%	0	Insurance & Property Taxes
2.40%	18,865	Plant Operation
13.30%	103,890	Diocesan Assessments
2.90%	22,765	Designated Collections
9.70%	75,000	School Support
1.40%	11,241	Capital Expenditures
100%	\$780,759	TOTAL CHURCH EXPENDITURES

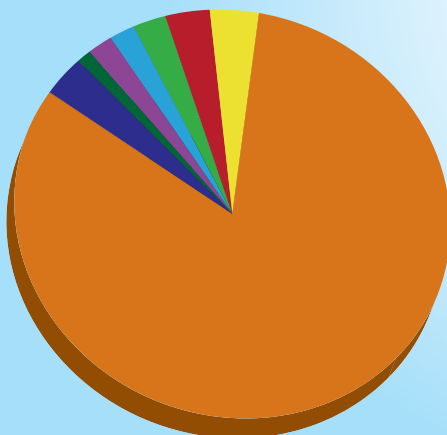
# St. Hilary School

## Revenue Sources as a Percent of Total Revenue Six Months Ended December 31, 2010



75.80%	\$1,232,058	Tuition & Fees
4.80%	77,034	Mandated Services
6.30%	102,552	Fund Raising
4.00%	64,456	St. Hilary Foundation
0.40%	5,956	Net Playground & Latchkey
3.00%	49,037	Student Services
4.60%	75,000	School Support From Church
0.00%	0	Interest
1.10%	18,394	Other
100%	\$1,624,487	TOTAL SCHOOL REVENUE

## Expense Sources as a Percent of Total Expenditures Six Months Ended December 31, 2010



82.40%	\$1,346,206	Salaries, Benefits & Taxes
3.30%	53,307	Instructional Materials
1.20%	19,258	Library/ Technology
2.00%	32,571	Utilities
2.00%	32,148	Plant Operation
0.00%	0	Insurance
2.40%	41,252	Student Services
3.30%	53,774	Administration
3.40%	54,869	Capital Improvements
100%	\$1,633,385	TOTAL SCHOOL EXPENDITURES



Mike McGuire host and organizer of the 4th Annual Alive Awards!

# 4th Annual Youth Group Alive! AWARDS GALA

## Solomon Award winners wow judges!

Three groups of the St. Hilary Alive! Youth Group walked the red carpet Sunday evening, January 16, to receive coveted Solomon Awards for their videos presenting a Christian message. Congratulations to the winners! With thanks to Debbie Wright who designed the decor and Jody Geary, who led the food/hospitality group for the event.



Crew of "Into the Woods" film, winner of Best Christian Message Award



Jason, leader of the Youth Alive! ministry, with his wife Julia.



Adult planning/leadership team of the awards event: Brent Brown, Keely Abbott, Mike McGuire. (Amy Menestrina was also a member of the leadership team.)



Crew of "We'll think of something" film, which won six of the ten Solomon Awards, including two best actors, two best supporting actors and best film.



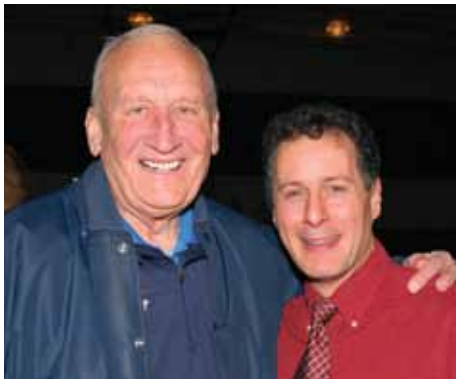
Crew of the "Bible News" film, winner of the "What Were You Thinking" and "Judges Choice" awards.

Adult leader Amy Menestrina presents award to Benedict the Bear for best cameo appearance, accompanied by Ellen Ulinski.



A glittering Horning Hall was filled with parishioners gathered to celebrate the annual Feast of St. Hilary on Saturday, January 15. This year the event honored the 50th Anniversary of our Blue Ribbon school's long history of excellence in Catholic education. The dinner, remarks and entertainment were enjoyed by the many proud parishioners assembled.

## Dinner celebration honors Feast of St. Hilary and St. Hilary School



Coach Gerry Faust and Randy Malick wooed the crowd during the entertainment with Ava Maria.



Molly Scantling, School Board President, Ann Leano and Julie Dudeck.



Parishioners enjoyed the tasty appetizers, salads, side dishes and desserts provided by their fellow parishioners.



Student Council Officers (L-R) Julia Sabella, VP; Emily Hissong, Secretary; Zach Connolly, Treasurer; Evan Nichols, President; greeted guests and later shared their personal experiences as students at St. Hilary.



Linda Oravesz supervises as her volunteers serve dinner to over 120 children at the Kids Event.



The Alive Youth Ministry led by Jason Solomon served the guests.

February 2011



St. Hilary Catholic Parish  
2750 West Market Street  
Fairlawn, OH 44333-4236

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**SAVE THE DATE**

## PARISH MISSION

April 3-6

**That Our Amen Will Be True –  
forging the link between the Mass and Daily Life**

### INSIDE:

- Your home is a domestic church
- A perfect getaway with your spouse
- Stewardship of Treasure
- 4th Annual Youth Group Alive! awards gala
- Feast of St. Hilary dinner celebration

This Newsletter is brought to you  
by the Stewardship Committee at  
St HILARY PARISH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
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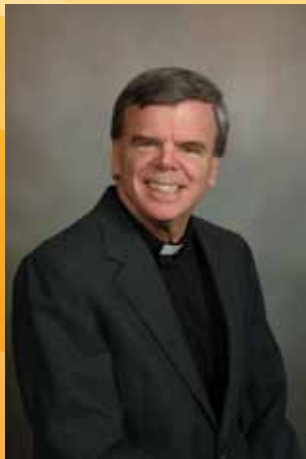
Have feedback on this newsletter?  
Contact Lyn Schott at 330-867-1055

Karen Moran, Writer  
karenmoranwriting@gmail.com

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# Faith Alive Retreat

**A Catholic Christian Retreat** to Strengthen  
the Connection Between Our Faith and Our  
Daily Life and Work



Friday Evening

**March 4**

6:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Saturday

**March 5**

7:30 am to 6:00 pm

Retreat Facilitator: Fr. Norm Douglas  
Exec. Dir. Heart to Heart Communications