

Coming Home to **CHRIST**



PRINCE OF PEACE
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Annual Report **2012**

"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." - **Luke 9:23-24**

Dear POP folks,

This has been a watershed year for Prince of Peace as we have returned to our renovated and expanded principal worship space, our temple. It has been a real gift to see so many individuals and families happy with the changes and enjoying celebrating the liturgy in our new surroundings.

There has been a cost, however; a price to pray.

First, there is the financial challenge of the building, to which our parish community has responded most generously through pledges and gifts to the Building Fund.

Secondly, there is the ongoing cost of life and ministry in the parish. Since moving out of the church, our parish giving has decreased, partially due to the movement of some of our families to surrounding parishes until construction was completed. The economy has also been a factor. But overall, contribution is down.

Thirdly, there is the cost that comes from moving out of a more intimate environment into a larger, more expansive space. We felt closer because we were physically closer in the Community Center and the Mary Chapel during the months of construction. A number of people mentioned, even before we moved back to the church, that they would miss that. Many of us still do.

It is absolutely essential for us, as the Church that we actively connect with others and feel those connections. I can't emphasize enough how important it is for each of us to be a part of at least one smaller group within the parish family. This could be a social grouping (such as our over-60 and our young adults enjoy). It could be part of a ministry (such as ushers or teachers of religion or ministers to the homebound and hospitalized). It might be a study group (like Familia) or a life-style group (Living Matrimony) or a prayer community (Divine Mercy) or a retreat family (ACTS or WITS).

We are blessed at Prince of Peace to host a dynamic daily Mass community, an active Sacrament of Penance (three times a week) and Anointing of the Sick (thrice monthly). Some of the gems in our year include the International Festival in April, the blessing of the animals in October, and the biggest Ash Wednesday just about anywhere.

The heart and soul of our parish continues to be the Presence of the Prince of Peace Himself in the Blessed Sacrament and the peaceful presence of prayer in our new church. The church is open seven days a week. The parish offices are likewise, with a live person to greet you and help you with your needs.

Any success of or by this parish community comes only from the grace of God and in turn, must go only to give him glory. He is a wonderful and phenomenal Father. This Annual Report cannot adequately describe his goodness nor begin to catalog his blessings, healings and mercy. But it is a full-color reminder that God is alive and doing great things in our midst at Prince of Peace.

As we move into the Year of Faith, focusing on the New Evangelization, that same Lord is gracing us all to be better Christians, more empowered Catholics, and more vibrant signs of his love in the world.

"Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your Name give the glory." (Psalm 115:1)

Father John Kelle

Father John



Worship



Over 1,100 liturgies were held at POP in the Main Church and Mary Chapel in 2011-2012, serving more than 650,000 faithful. The Arts & Environment ministry works tirelessly year-round to make our worship space beautiful and prepare for each seasonal liturgical celebration.



The Sunday after Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday. Celebrating the Divine Mercy of Jesus Christ, as revealed by Christ Himself to Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, this feast was extended to the entire Catholic Church by Pope John Paul II on April 30, 2000, the day that he canonized Saint Faustina. POP's Knights of Columbus Council #8482 donated a new image that was dedicated in 2011 during the Divine Mercy Sunday service held in the Mary Chapel.



The new crucifix in POP's Mary Chapel Narthex located above the entrance doors to the sanctuary, is entitled, "Prince of Peace". This breathtaking piece was created by Sister Mary Claire, Queen of Peace Monastery, BC. and measures 2' x 3', is cast in bonded bronze/bass relief, and attached to weathered barn wood. In the accompanying photos of the crucifix, you see Jesus in communion with the Father, who emptied himself into Christ, and Christ who emptied himself to take on our form and teach us self-emptying as well. It is a depiction of consummate peace, love, surrender, and joy. You are invited to view this beautiful crucifix in the Mary Chapel. Make sure to look for the beams of light that shine into the two side windows of the chapel that intersect over Christ's heart—an awesome site to see!

Bringing Others to Christ

From July 2011 – June 2012, through the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcomed 469 people into the Church, including 434 infants, 27 children, and eight adults. We also welcomed 11 adults and six children through the Profession of Faith, which means they were baptized in another Christian tradition and now have been received into Full Communion in the Catholic Church. More than 634 children and 19 adults received the Sacrament of First Eucharist. Close to 241 people received the Sacrament of Confirmation, including approximately 150 high school teens. Additional sacramental celebrations included 60 marriages and three Communal reconciliation services with 23 priests present as confessors at one of the services. We also celebrated the lives of 85 individuals who left our community through death and rebirth in heaven.



Outreach



Catholic Charities social workers helped a young, paralyzed man that was shot during time of war. Zmichael is a refugee from Eritrea and was an innocent victim. He is shown with Catholic social workers that manage his medical and personal challenges through the Refugee Resettlement program. POP was asked to help pay part of Zmichel's rent for six months. Outreach said, "Yes, Lord. Your servants are listening."



Gabriel Project Angels minister to pregnant, abused, homeless woman in crisis. The POP Gabriel Project helps approximately 150 pregnant women each year with spiritual, emotional and practical support. "Love one another as I have loved you."



Outreach volunteers prepare to feed homeless and needy people a traditional Thanksgiving meal at Casa Juan Diego homeless shelter. Approximately 200 people enjoyed wonderful foods provided by parishioners from POP.



Resurrection Catholic Community's Pastor, Fr. Christopher Plant, is shown breaking bread with needy families in his faith community.



POP and Resurrection volunteers serve needy people during the Thanksgiving Loaves and Fishes Dinner Program that serves approximately 1,300 needy people at five different locations. *When did we feed you, Lord?*



POP parishioners and Food Pantry volunteers are shown delivering food and other supplies to a local apartment complex where several families lost everything in a bad fire. The POP Assistance Ministry helps close to 4,500 people in need of employment, housing, medical help and utilities each year. *Catholic Social Teaching instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.*

Outreach (continued)



POP parishioners prepare for the Monthly Food Distribution program that feeds approximately 120 - 200 hungry families each month. They receive a mixture of fresh produce and non-perishable foods to add to their pantries. The POP Food Pantry also has been busy—more than 18,000 individuals received assistance last year. In addition, more than 500 families and individuals were fed through the Thanksgiving Loaves & Fishes, Easter Brunch, and Sandwich Makers programs. A lot of love and hard work goes into feeding the hungry.



The Adopt-a-Family Christmas Program helps 425 families in crisis each year. POP volunteers pose in the "wrapping room" as they fill last minute needs. By the end of the day, one can reflect on the generosity of the POP parishioners and the organization of the volunteers and staff working hard each year on the program. Lots of smiling faces! *"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord."* – Luke 2:11

Pastoral Care



POP had an amazing show of support for our deployed military on Armed Forces Day, May 19, 2012, during its Ministry for Military Families Care Box Packing Project for deployed military members. Individuals of all ages, including various clubs and families, came together to donate supplies and pack up 292 care boxes. Some of the groups participating included American Heritage Girls, Brownies, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Lone Star College and high-school students in need of service hours.



On May 27, 2012, the Second Annual Patriotic Rosary was hosted by the Knights of Columbus in the Mary Chapel at POP. Over 70 people participated with a speaking part. This was an inspirational parish event that allowed prayer for our nation's leaders and citizens and promoted the rosary and patriotism for our country within the community.



Each January, a special Mass is held in memory of children lost before birth.

Faith Formation



The purpose of catechesis is to form disciples of Jesus Christ, just like He did; He prayed with them, showed them how to live and gave them His mission. He grew them. Sonshine makes us grow! POP's Sonshine Days is a two-week process that takes children grades 1st - 5th through a full year of Faith Formation. Vacation Bible School (VBS), also offered in the summer, connects kids to God, creates change in their hearts, and provides them with actionable ways to share God's love with others.



Youth Ministry



The annual Youth Ministry Red Carpet Affair gala night in May sends our high-school seniors out in grand fashion that are equipped to change the world by being Christian witnesses and living out their faith.



Our Servant Leader evangelization and discipleship team were empowered at Crossroads Retreat Center to lead the teens of Prince of Peace closer to Christ, the Church, and one another.



You can tell that the Love of Jesus is contagious through the smiles of our junior-high teens that retreat together every December and attend Junior High week every June where they encounter the Spirit in real and relevant ways.



Wednesday night Bible Study brings 50 - 80 teens together weekly to unpack the scriptures and share their faith so they can bring it into their schools, their homes, and their own hearts.



Youth Ministry did not let a little church expansion stand in its way of offering teens an intimate experience with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament for their regularly scheduled "Power Hour" nights.

Youth Ministry (continued)



Youth Ministry attended a summer high school camp in Georgia this year called Covecrest where they encountered Christ and had a blast doing it so they could carry that message on to the rest of the community.



Youth Ministry expanded its scouting program beyond the large and successful Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venture Crew to include the American Heritage Girls troop of more than 50 girls in service to the community and the Church.

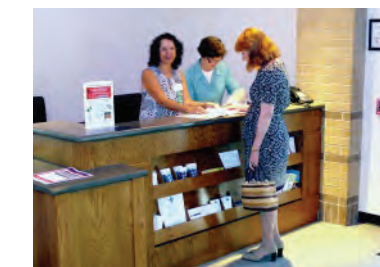
Community Life



Separate prayer breakfasts are held for men and women in the Community Center. This is a time for them to join others in our faith community for fellowship, delicious food, prayer and inspiration. Guest speakers include POP clergy, spiritual directors, and more.



Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, POP clergy and over 1,000 parishioners and friends came together to celebrate the church's rededication, Nov. 22, 2011. The celebration included a special Mass in the newly-renovated Main Church presided by Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, followed by a reception in the Community Center.



As a part of Community Life's Open Wide the Door Ministry, friendly greeters welcome parishioners and guests at the church doors before Sunday Mass each week. Volunteers also help answer questions, provide information about POP's programs, processes and services, and help new parishioners register at the Welcome Desk located in the narthex of the newly-renovated Main Church and Welcoming Table during Hospitality Sundays held in the Community Center after Mass.

Blessed Beginnings



Children from Blessed Beginnings Preschool & Mother's Day Out brought in donations for the Prince of Peace food pantry.

Finance Council Letter

To our Prince of Peace Community:

This time last year, we were eagerly awaiting the move back into our expanded worship space. We completed a successful capital campaign and construction was underway. We experienced challenges in operating simultaneous weekend Masses in the Community Center and Mary Chapel, but our community continued to support our parish. Your support makes possible everything Prince of Peace does.

While we had a successful capital campaign for the building renovations, the additional Masses held during the construction phase increased our monthly operating expenses, which are funded through weekly collections. With the smaller spaces available to come together and worship during this time, our weekly collections also were down. Collections returned to their pre-construction levels early this spring. Bolstered by a strong Easter and Christmas collection, we ended up only 3 percent short of the budget for the year. On a positive note, our ministries and administration of the church managed their budgets well and kept costs down to only finish the year with a small deficit of \$6,000.

Our parish continued to show its generosity to the greater Houston community this year as well. Special collections for St. Mary's Seminary and Missionary Appeals increased 41 percent and 21 percent, respectively. Additionally, direct donations to the ministries (fees, gifts, etc.) increased 12 percent to \$658,434.

For the coming fiscal year, weekly collections have been budgeted equal to the prior year at \$78,000. The increase in total collections from last year is due to additional weeks in our fiscal calendar. As our operating expenses have increased in the new worship space, the parish staff will continue to maintain efficient spending and work within the constraints of our fiscal year budget.

We look forward to continued successful follow up of the capital campaign and collection of the pledges this year. To complete the construction phase, we entered a \$3,000,000 note. To date, we have paid off \$640,000 of the principal on the note thanks to the efforts of the capital campaign committee. The continued collection of outstanding pledges is important to ensure quick and timely payoff of the outstanding loan balance.

Thank you for another successful year at Prince of Peace. We appreciate and commend you for your continued generosity and stewardship. You, our parishioners, are Prince of Peace.

Prince of Peace

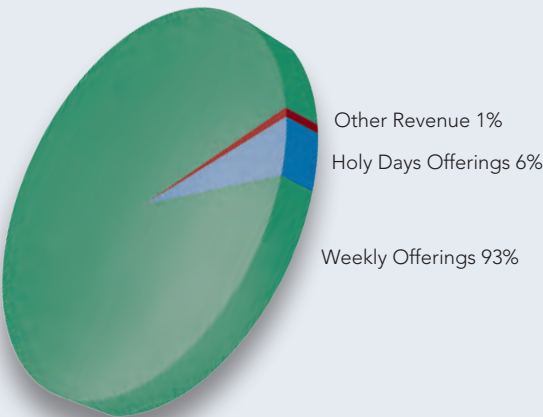
Finance Council

Sources and Dispositions of Funds (in thousands)

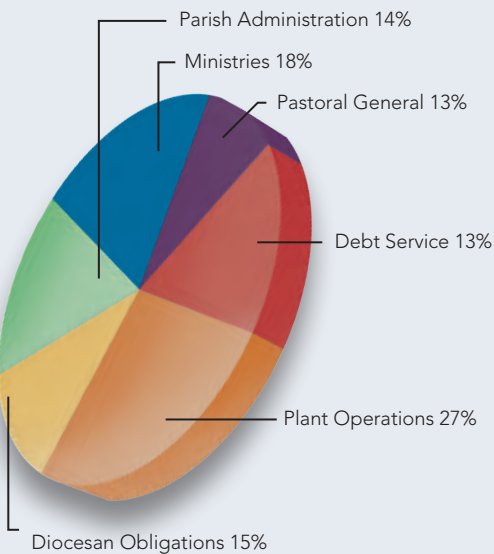
| | 6/30/12 Actual | 6/30/13 Budget |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Revenue | | |
| Sunday/Holy Day Offering | \$4,001 | \$4,223 |
| Other Revenue | 4 | 39 |
| Total Revenue | 4,005 | 4,262 |
| Parish Operations | | |
| Plant Operations/Maintenance | 1,144 | 1,139 |
| Parish Administration | 630 | 592 |
| Pastoral General | 390 | 583 |
| Total Parish Operations | 2,164 | 2,314 |
| Ministries (net of direct revenues) | | |
| Faith Formation | 136 | 161 |
| Worship | 301 | 286 |
| Youth | 153 | 154 |
| Outreach | 26 | 43 |
| Pastoral Care | 19 | 19 |
| Community Life | 63 | 70 |
| Total Ministries | 698 | 733 |
| Building Debt Service | 550 | 550 |
| Diocesan/Other Obligations | | |
| Capital Renewal | 120 | 120 |
| Cathedraticum | 402 | 402 |
| Resurrection Church/Schools | 77 | 73 |
| DSF Shortfall | 0 | 70 |
| Total Diocesan/Other | 599 | 665 |
| Total Expenditures | 4,011 | 4,262 |
| Net Cash Flow | (6) | 0 |
| Recorded Special Gifts 2011-2012 | | |
| Diocesan Service Fund | \$399,000 | |
| St. Mary's Seminary | 44,000 | |
| Missionary Appeal | 34,000 | |
| Other Appeals (12) | 74,000 | |
| Total Special Gifts | \$551,000 | |

Parish Budget Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013

Sources of Funds Budgeted for Fiscal Year 2013
Total \$4.3 million



Uses of Funds Budgeted for Fiscal Year 2013
Total \$4.3 million



Spanish Ministry



Day of the Dead events, which come in the form of festivals, parades and group celebrations, are held on Nov. 1 – 2, to coincide with All Souls' Day. During these celebrations, people wear masks or carry signs or put up elaborate decorations to honor the dead.



On Feb. 2, 2012, POP held the Presentation of the Lord in the Main Church. More than 200 baby Jesus' were brought to the church on that day, some dressed with the typical dress of their country, for a blessing. Most came from Central, South America, and Europe.



POP's 2012 International Festival was held in April. POP families and friends experienced the cultures, customs, and cuisine from 23 different countries. Events included live traditional dance and music, delicious food samples, and fashion shows, plus art and photography displays.



Thirteen couples received the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony on Dec. 31, 2011.



On Aug. 17, 2011, Father Alfonso Delgado Vargas became a United States citizen. Congratulations, Father Alfonso!



Servorum Dei is a Spanish adult group that gathers together every Friday from 7 – 9 p.m. In February 2012, the group held a Valentine's Day dance for a fundraiser.

Congratulations to POP's Communications Department!



POP's Communications Department shared excellent news with our parishioners on May 20, just in time for the 2012 World Communications Day. POP and Guidance in Giving (GIG), a consulting firm that partnered with POP in 2005 and 2011 to raise much-needed funds for our campus building and expansion projects, won a Bronze Quill Award of Excellence from the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC). The award recognizes excellence in communications management for the 2011 "Built Together Into

God's Dwelling Place" Capital Campaign. These efforts and an incredible amount of time, dedication and commitment from campaign leaders, clergy, staff, and hundreds of parishioner volunteers allowed POP to exceed its \$5.5 million campaign goal by the middle of May 2011—over \$6.5 million dollars were pledged! This amount continues to grow as new parishioners join POP and make pledges toward the cause. We are truly honored to receive an award of excellence from this highly-esteemed professional business communicator's organization. A sincere thanks to all of you who so generously contributed to the campaign and helped us reach this incredible fundraising goal for our faith community. We appreciate you daily!

Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council is a consultative group of 12 parishioners discerned by the Holy Spirit to offer advice to the pastor. Discernment with all interested and qualified parishioners is held each year in late spring for four council positions with a three-year commitment. The council meets monthly or as requested by the pastor. Serving at the discretion of the pastor and visible by their distinctive badges, Pastoral Council members accept and sometimes solicit opinions and questions from the parishioners on all matters of concern at Prince of Peace. The council also works closely with the church staff, Finance Council, and Archdiocesan offices.

Called to Serve

At the annual Called to Serve and Called to Grow Open Houses in late summer, POP offers parishioners a chance to learn about service and spiritual/personal growth opportunities available within our many ministries.

It takes many volunteers to support our ministries, and we are most thankful for all their time and efforts throughout the year. Our volunteers essentially are the back-bone of this parish, and we wouldn't exist without their dedication and commitment to POP. Here's what some of our volunteers had to say about serving.



"There is nothing more rewarding for me (aside from time with grandkids!) than to serve in a needed capacity at POP where I can touch others' lives and be touched by them. Whether I am greeting people coming to Mass, serving as a Eucharistic Minister or helping a mom in need through the Gabriel Project, I am trying to answer the call I think God makes to each of us to be of service to His people by sharing the talents we have been given. I believe God has a plan in place for everyone, and it is up to us to listen and respond to where God needs to use us most. We are truly His voice and hands in this world." - **Linda Varble**

"Like to smile, like to get smiles back? That's why I am a greeter. It is the most fun job I have. Where else can I go and smile and say good morning or good afternoon for about 20 minutes and just get energized and receive so many smiles in return. It becomes impossible not to gladden your mood or improve the start or end of your day than to have people happy to see you and thank you just for being there. When I was little, my grandmother sang a song to me called Jesus Wants me for a Sunbeam. Greeting is me being a sunbeam. Come be a sunbeam with us!" - **Harriett Bedenbaugh**

"Catholic Daughters Court of the Holy Family is a group of very spirit-filled women who work together to help our parish family and community. St. Gianna's Hope Miscarriage Ministry and the Memorial Mass for infant loss, which is sponsored by Catholic Daughters, has impacted so many and is a wonderful healing for those whose lives have been touched by the loss of an infant. The Court membership has been very dedicated in its hard work, time, and talent to help with the food pantry collections, youth scholarships through the sale of CDA Spiritual Remembrance cards, Blankets for Babies, Smile Train, The Military Ministry, Dominican Sisters, and many other charities. I am so blessed to be a part of this group of wonderful Catholic women." - **Mary Jane Albert**

"With an eight month old daughter, another baby on the way, and a big move from Dallas to Houston, I wasn't quite sure what I was going to do in the summer of 2011. God knows better than us and after finding our house in Tomball, we would make our home at Prince of Peace. I found MYC (Mothers of Young Children) right away in the bulletin and from the first meeting, I was welcomed with open arms by other moms who knew what I was going through. They then introduced me to a FAMILIA group and 10 Great Dates. With every ministry and group, the POP community seemed to grow smaller and smaller and I really felt like a part of the family. It's hard to move out of the pew and put yourself out there, but it's truly what made POP more than church on Sunday and a true community and family for not only myself, but my husband and two girls as well." - **Cassie Conger**

Called to Serve (continued)



"My name is Sandy Parker, and my family and I have been members of POP for over 20 years. It is an intrinsic part of who we are as members of POP to volunteer in various ministries here. We believe that all of us are called upon to do His work wherever we are, to expand His kingdom by example, and to minister to others not only within our Catholic community, but to all of His children. There are so many places to serve here at POP. Can't get out much? Make sandwiches for the homeless. Like children? Assist in our Faith Formation programs. Like making people feel at home? Be a greeter at Sunday Mass. Want to learn more about your faith? Take a bible study class.

Like to sing? Join a choir. People say they feel POP is too big, that they can't make a difference in such a large church. Not true; all it takes is that first movement out of your comfort zone, to come "join" the family of POP. There is a ministry that needs your special talents. We are big, but that is a plus; so many opportunities for people young and old to minister to others in service to our Lord. Jesus is waiting for His followers to step up and take ownership of their church. Don't keep your abilities hidden; share the Light of Christ with others around you. The blessings to you will be immeasurable." - Sandy Parker

"I've been a member of POP since 1974. This is my 'Church Family' and what a better way of getting to know the parish people than VOLUNTEERING! After the 7:30 a.m. Mass, my friend, Ruth Brusie, and I staff the Welcoming Table in the Community Center on Hospitality Sundays. We meet new and established parishioners. I also do sign-ups for First Baptism class each month and am on the list of Pastoral Care for funeral reception food. By volunteering, it is a wonderful way to get to know your parish and provides such a great way to feel that you are helping and making a difference." - Genevieve Cordera

"Living Matrimony has been part of our lives for 13 years and has been a BIG part of our STRONG marriage. There is no better place to meet other families who have the same LOVE for Christ and their families like this ministry. We want to thank the LORD for allowing us to be part of such a special community. We highly recommend Living Matrimony to all married/engaged couples." - Aida Garza



"Community Life is one of several ministries where I volunteer on a regular basis. Recently, I had the chance to coordinate with Sue Hofmeister the Bishop Sheltz' ordination reception at Prince of Peace. I met new friends (from all walks of life) who volunteered to help make the occasion memorable for Bishop Sheltz and for the Prince of Peace community. I should also mention that volunteering in Community Life activities is a learning experience and also a lot of FUN!" - Sally Reyes



"For many years, my husband and I have enjoyed designing and building three-dimensional art for POP events. The most enduring was the Lighthouse and flags displayed in the Community Center at the Festival of Ministries. Other projects included The World, a huge ceiling sunflower, moonlight backdrop for the Harvest Dance, an eight-foot juke box, and decorations for a 50's dance. Ray also takes photos at church events, and I make floral table centerpieces for celebrations and provide food for funeral receptions." - Sue and Ray Leber