



PRINCE OF PEACE  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

# Annual Report 2014

OPEN, OPEN WIDE THE DOORS  
*to Christ*

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

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## DEAR COMMUNITY,

This past year has been a time of moving forward. The Communications Ministry, so prophetically called for by our Pastoral Council, continues to flourish and improve our connection with one another. Their efforts in word and photo also appear regularly in the Texas Catholic Herald.

Called for by the Finance and Pastoral Councils, our new website also has been rolled out and is proving more informative and user-friendly than its predecessors. It is being cared for by knowledgeable webmasters and fueled by a new search engine.

More of our parish households continue to choose electronic giving as their preferred contribution method. Faith Direct and credit card donations are increasingly more common. Thanks to the generosity of the members of our parish, we have retired the last of our debt and are preparing for the construction of new facilities to serve our youth, the needy and the large-space needs of the different ministries, following the survey conducted by Guidance in Giving.

Our parish has become more intentional about living out the dreams of the Church's two newest saints. Pope St. John XXIII convened the Second Vatican Council whose first document, the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*,



*POP joined millions of faithful who celebrated the canonization (sainthood) of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II in April 2014. The Art & Environment Ministry adorned the front of the Main Church with bunting (the papal colors) and large canvas posters of the two new saints.*

called for "full, conscious and active participation" on the part of all God's people at Mass and other worship. Many do not yet know the prayers and the Creed, and so we are making special efforts to provide readable aids for participation in the Mass. We also continue to ask everyone to participate in each hymn by joining in song or at least by prayerfully following the words.

Pope St. John Paul II's challenge, "Do not be afraid! Open, open wide the doors to Christ!" is inscribed over the main doors of our church. In this spirit, we as a community are focusing more intentionally on hospitality and welcoming. We do this not for the purpose of selling ourselves to the broader public, but because the Lord has called us to it. You and I are Ministers of Welcome!

We also remind ourselves of the identity we have as parish as described by these two great leaders of the Church. John Paul taught that the parish is a school for prayer. If each of our activities and organizations is not bringing people closer to God in prayer, then we are failing badly, regardless of the number of people who attend.

John XXIII, speaking from his roots in the villages of rural Italy, said that the role of the parish emerges above all as the presence of the Church where men and women live, "the village fountain", from which all can drink, finding in it the freshness of the Gospel. We are not primarily an institution of laws and buildings, but the incarnation of Jesus, the Living Water, here to nourish, refresh and heal. As Pope Francis reminds us, the Church is a field hospital for all who are broken and wounded by the journey of life.

I pray and I ask you to pray that our parish will become more faithful to this vision, more faithful to the life and work of the God whose chosen task in this world is to be the Prince of Peace.



*Father John*



## WE ARE PRINCE OF PEACE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

For 43 years, Prince of Peace Catholic Community has tried to actively extend a warm welcome to all people who have come to our doorsteps looking for a place of worship, a faith community to call home. We have done our best to make hospitality our goal.

Currently, POP has close to 7,600 registered households, and continues to be one of the largest, most diverse, multi-cultural Catholic communities in Houston. Our intention is to be a beacon of worship, hope, and service to all now, and for many years to come.



*We strive to be a beacon of worship, hope, and service to all those who come to worship or are in need.*

*Wedding photo courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. Kyle Stringer*



## VISION STATEMENT

Full, conscious and active participation in the life of the Catholic Church.

## MISSION STATEMENT

We, as a Catholic faith community, answer God's call to live out the Gospel through Sacramental worship, formation, evangelization and serving those in need.

## SHEPHERDING THE FLOCK

Our pastor Daniel Cardinal DiNardo is able to be with us at Prince of Peace two or three times a year. He has entrusted the day-to-day joys and challenges of shepherding our active community to four priests, 8 active deacons and 2 technically-retired deacons. Please keep them in your prayers!



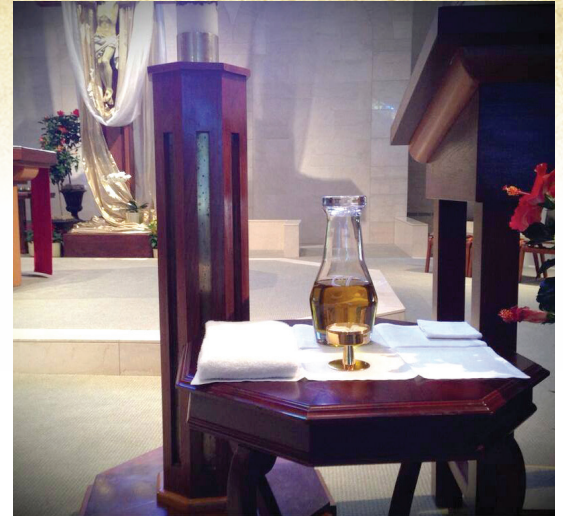


## SACRAMENTAL WORSHIP

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcomed 517 people into the Catholic Church, including 468 infants, 36 children, and 13 adults. We also welcomed 22 adults and 19 children through the Profession of Faith, which means they were baptized in another Christian tradition and now have professed their belief in the teachings of the Catholic Church and have been received in Full Communion with the Church.

Close to 550 people received the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time, including 515 children 36 adults.

Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation with Daniel Cardinal DiNardo in May were 157 teens and 30 adults. At the Easter Vigil and reception of candidates at Christ the King, 55 children and 35 adults came into the full life of the Church.



In May, we celebrated with the whole Archdiocese as one of our members, Jeff Bame, was ordained a Deacon. Jeff and his family are long-time members of POP and he continues his studies in preparation for being ordained a priest. Three more men from POP are on this same journey and look forward to ordination in the years ahead.

Additional sacramental celebrations included 77 marriages and three evening communal reconciliation services with 23 priests present as confessors at each. Our two new daytime penance services in Advent and Lent also were very well received. We also celebrated the lives of 104 individuals who have passed to eternal life.

Communal Anointing of the Sick is ordinarily celebrated three times monthly as well as frequently after Masses. Father Ignatius, our hospital chaplain, anoints many of our parish members and visitors as he ministers at area hospitals.



*Wedding photo courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. Kyle Stringer*



## FORMATION, EVANGELIZATION AND SERVING THOSE IN NEED

POP is an active, growing parish with opportunities for service and involvement on many levels. Our goal is to live out the vision of Father Al Doga, our founding pastor, and the pioneer members of Prince of Peace:

*"We hope to become an open Christian community 'alive inside' to the faith of the Gospels and our Catholic heritage, and filled with a spirit of loving service to the building of the Kingdom of God...Our Catholic faith, like life itself, cannot be a spectator sport. In some way, we must all try to be the event and not just the person who watches it."*

**1971, Father Al Doga**



### Forming Our Faith:

For children and teens to fully participate in the faith community, they must be formed in the truths of our Catholic faith, in the practice of prayer and worship, and in living community and service. This is the primary responsibility of parents, but it is also up to the Church to assist them in forming their children. Each year should build upon the previous year in teaching, prayer and living the faith. Featured here is the summer program for pre-K—fifth graders, Vacation Bible School.

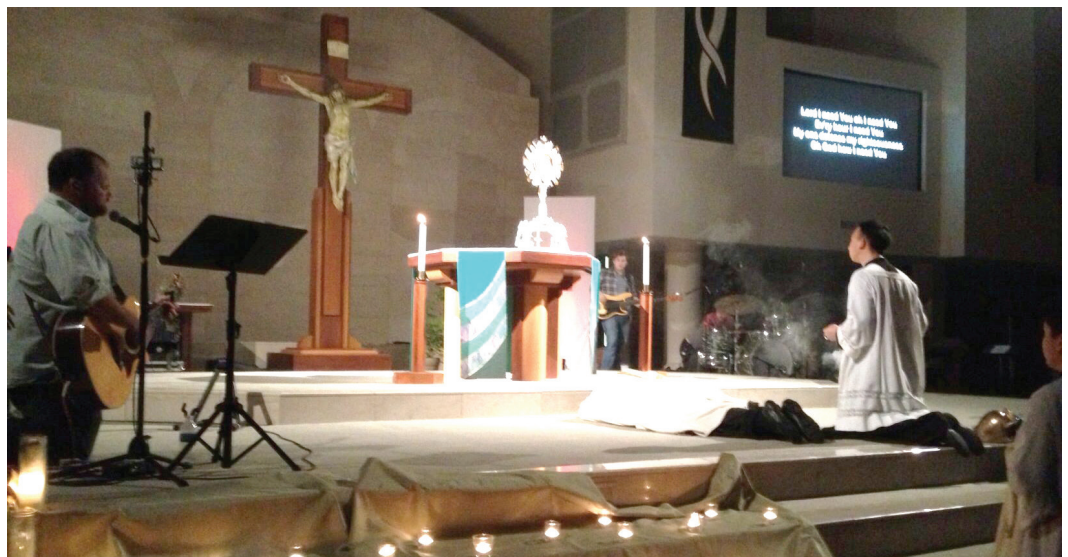


### Caregiver Conference:

Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit...spiritual and physical selves, which are God's creations. We presented the Pathway to Peace of Mind Caregiver Conference in May 2014, close to 150 parishioners and friends of POP chose from 15 workshops and visited with over 20 exhibitors from a variety of home care services, assisted living communities, memory care, elder care law and more.

### Adore North:

Individuals and families from the north side of Houston gathered in our church on the 4th Wednesday for a powerful night of worship, Eucharistic Adoration, a relevant message for teens and adults, and great community fellowship. The theme for the spring semester was Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel) from Pope Francis' new Apostolic Letter.





## FORMATION, EVANGELIZATION AND SERVING THOSE IN NEED (CONT.)

### Monthly Food Distribution:

Each month, more than 120 households are provided with much-needed basic necessities, such as food and household supplies. This is made possible through the generous gifts of food, financial donations, and volunteer service by POP members and by proceeds from the annual October Golf and Gala.



### Citizenship Workshops:

Last year, POP offered free English, Spanish and Bilingual Citizenship Classes taught by an attorney to help prepare for the naturalization interview and exam to become U.S. citizens.



### Concert Series:

The *POPS Encore* Concert Series continued with three stunning performances. To begin the Lenten season in reflection and prayer, the Houston Cecilia Chamber Choir collaborated with a chamber orchestra in the music of Ola Gjeilo, Palestrina, Bach, and Mozart in a program called *Divine Voices*. In April, nationally acclaimed organist, Patrick Parker, DMA student at the Moores School of Music, performed a program he played at the national and final level of the American Guild of Organists competition. The finale in May was the Kingwood Chorale performing the beautiful Brahms Requiem with 115+ person choir and 40 member orchestra.



### Respecting Life:

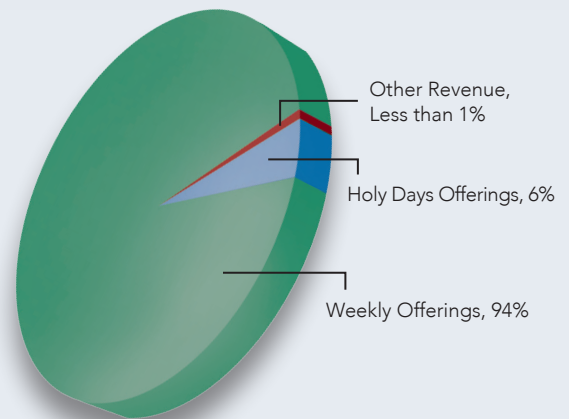
The POP Respect Life Committee hosted a special panel discussion regarding religious freedom in the United States, in recognition of the USCCB's "Fortnight for Freedom." Joining Fr. Euel Manzano, Priest Secretary to the Cardinal, on the panel were dignitaries from the Catholic Chancery Office, Texas Right to Life, MD Anderson and Houston Coalition for Life.

## SOURCES AND DISPOSITIONS OF FUNDS (in thousands)

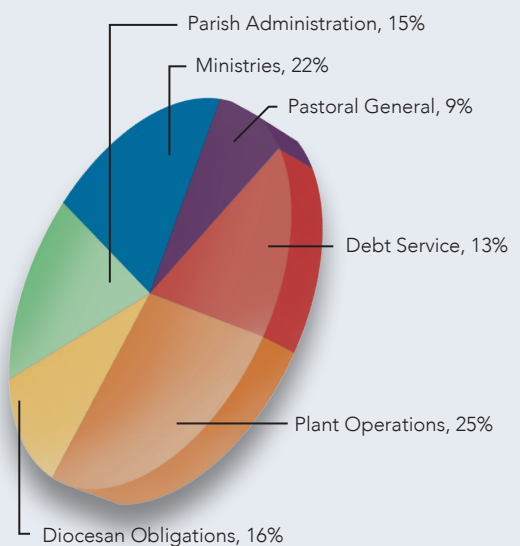
## PARISH BUDGET Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

	6/30/14 <u>Actual</u>	6/30/15 <u>Budget</u>
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>		
Sunday/Holy Day Offering	\$4,587	\$4,665
Other Revenue	12	20
Excess From 2013/2014	282	208
<b>Total Revenue Operations</b>	<b>4,881</b>	<b>4,893</b>
<b><u>Parish Operations</u></b>		
Plant Operations/Maintenance	1,190	1,175
Parish Administration	720	701
Pastoral General	411	436
<b>Total Parish Operations</b>	<b>2,321</b>	<b>2,312</b>
<b><u>Ministries (net of direct revenues)</u></b>		
Faith Formation	185	211
Worship	346	361
Youth	169	164
Outreach*	0*	0*
Pastoral Care	40	108
Community Life	60	72
Evangelization	0	113
<b>Total Ministries</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>1,029</b>
<b><u>Building Debt Service</u></b>	<b>600</b>	<b>600</b>
<b><u>Special Parish Projects</u></b>	<b>286</b>	<b>208</b>
<b><u>Diocesan/Other Obligations</u></b>		
Capital Renewal	120	120
Cathedraticum	393	452
Diocesan Schools/Projects	144	122
DSF Shortfall	9	50
<b>Total Diocesan/Other</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>744</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>4,673</b>	<b>4,893</b>
<b>Net Cash Flow</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><u>Recorded Special Gifts 2013-2014</u></b>		
Diocesan Service Fund	\$406,000	
St. Mary's Seminary	39,000	
Missionary Appeal	21,000	
Typhoon-Philippines	15,000	
Other Appeals (15)	78,000	
<b>Total Special Gifts</b>	<b>\$559,000</b>	

Sources of Funds Budgeted for Fiscal Year 2015  
Total \$4.7 million



Uses of Funds Budgeted for Fiscal Year 2015  
Total \$4.7 million



\*Outreach is now 100% self funded. The donations made directly to Outreach now cover 100% of the expenses to run the program. No additional subsidy is needed out of the weekly collection.



## FINANCE COUNCIL LETTER

To our Prince of Peace Community:

What an amazing, busy year we have had at Prince of Peace! We recently added another new member, Edgar Tavares, who joins the Finance Council after being a part of our Pastoral Council during last year. Please join us in welcoming Edgar.

Before we jump into the new fiscal year and many exciting opportunities it holds, let's review what we have accomplished thus far:

- **A Renewed Full, Conscience & Active Welcome**—As part of our Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan, the ministries at POP are taking part of a new initiative to evangelize and become a more consciously welcoming community. As a result, two new ministries have been created.

First, the **Ministry of New Evangelization** seeks to actively promote the spiritual renewal of our faith community, which includes all parish-wide missions and renewal activities, integration of individuals into community and ministry, and promotion of valid parishioner census data. After a successful national search for qualified candidates, we give a warm welcome to Sefanit Mekonnen, who has been brought on board to lead this ministry and to share her passion for her faith and successful experiences in helping to lead others to Christ.

In addition, the new **Guardian Ministry** is led by Worship Ministry Leader, Dcn. Fred Dinges. Efforts will involve a collaboration between all ministries to ensure we are bringing a warmth and love with a welcoming graciousness to all. Discovering how we, as a faith community, can be proactive and make progress in this renewed effort toward evangelization and becoming a truly welcoming parish.

- **Expansion of the Priest Residence**—We expanded the main common area and added an additional bedroom suite to the residence. Our visiting clergy now have a private bedroom and bathroom. The additional space in the common area allows for more gatherings to be held in the comfort of the residence.
- **Advancements in Technology Use**—Fr. John mentioned it in his homilies, and now we all are witnessing the new screens in the Main Church being integrated to further enhance your experiences at Mass. We also finished the upgrade of the POP website and migrated to eCatholic as host to the site, and hope you are easily finding up-to-date, relevant information about POP.
- **Extinguished Debt**—We have extinguished our debt for Phase I and Phase II capital campaigns. This means we have paid off our third-party debt. To begin Phase II, we borrowed \$850,000 from our internal reserves. Any remaining pledges being paid are going to repay the money we borrowed from ourselves. The ability to borrow from ourselves produced cash savings as we were able to borrow less money over the life of the project.

**A Look Ahead**—For the coming fiscal year, weekly collections have been budgeted at \$88,000. The Outreach Ministry still requires no additional allocation from weekly collections. Last fiscal year, Outreach ended in a surplus due to increases in generosity from the community. The additional \$27,000 was placed in the Outreach net asset account. We remained under budget for the fiscal year due to the timing of filling open positions.

Finally, we look forward to the new fiscal year and all the opportunities ahead of us. The feasibility study was completed by Guidance in Giving and identified the major projects we will focus on for the future. Plans are currently being discussed with the architects and building committee, and as we make final decisions for our next capital campaign projects, you will be the first to know!

We bring this fiscal year to a close with big plans for the future. We continue to build our programs and provide for those in our community. Thank you for contributing to the successes of this year, and for continuing the momentum we have created to becoming a more consciously welcoming community.

Prince of Peace Finance Council

## OUR FINANCE COUNCIL

Finance Council consists of volunteers appointed by the pastor to prayerfully assist him with ensuring the financial and administrative affairs of POP are properly conducted, supervised, and reported. Currently, the Chairperson is **Erin White**, and members are **Armando Chincarini, Thanh Tam Dinh, Ralph Ellis, Jr., Justin Hebert, Dave Kreiner (Joint Council Representative), Paul McGuire, Chester Nowak, Jim Schulist, Mary Schulist, Edgar Tavares, and Olga Villasenor.**

Contact: [financecouncil@pophouston.org](mailto:financecouncil@pophouston.org).

## OUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

Pastoral Council is a discerned group of members who prayerfully serve as liaisons for the parish faithful and provide counsel to the pastor. Chairperson is **Tim Thibodeau**, and Co-chairperson, **Tammy Lee**; members are **Ryan Armstrong, Phillip Bame, Jose Antonio Betancourt, Susan Cline, Nathan Harrison, Laura Hebert, Dave Kreiner (Joint Council Representative), Kelly Perez, Autumn Raynor, Stevee Steeley, and Justin Waltz.**

Contact: [pastoralcouncil@pophouston.org](mailto:pastoralcouncil@pophouston.org).