



HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH
WASHINGTON, DC

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

The signs of a healthy organization are how its staff can sustain programs, create new ones and adapt to the changes required by circumstances. Certainly, the Catholic Church, in its long tradition, has for centuries sustained and innovated. Since March, when the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to close the doors of our church and school, our Catholic parish of Holy Trinity has been challenged to adapt by sustaining some programs and creating new ones. In this 2020 Annual Report, detailing our finance of Fiscal Year 2020 (FY 2020) you will read how — despite the restrictions caused the crisis — our faith community not only survives, but thrives. Allow me to provide some of the highlights.

As noted in this report by Catherine Heinhold in the Ignatian Spirituality section and David Pennington in Liturgy & Music section, when the doors of the chapel and the church were forced to close, our staff turned to the innovative world of Zoom so as to lead our parishioners in ways of praying. These programs included the listening to daily homilies, praying the Liturgy of the Hours and Praying in Sacred Space several times a week, praying the Rosary weekly and offering several online retreats. Karelia Pallan, our Director of Communications, used her ingenuity to enhance our digital capacities to make these programs happen.

What's more, as described by Principal Kevin McShane of Holy Trinity School, our teachers improvised their pedagogy in order to provide our school children a first-rate education via the internet and social media. Similarly as mentioned by Judith Brusseau and Rebecca Hoesterey our Religious Education and Sacramental programs continued to offer students a firm formative foundation in the faith so that more than 100 children and youth were prepared to receive the sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation. Meanwhile, Ashley Klick, our Pastoral Associate for Social Justice, lists an array of programs that demonstrate how our local, domestic and global responses pivoted so as to remain engaged in issues of faith and justice.

As Director of Finance Chris Kehoe notes, our expenses were \$4,685,000. A good part of these expenses had to do with the repair of our campus buildings, coordinated by Dino Campaganari, our Director of Facilities. In addition, the COVID-19 crisis has required additional expenses so as to provide a more thorough sanitizing of campus areas and rooms.

Our team could not have sustained and created if not for the generosity of so many of you. Rock Schuler, our Director of Stewardship, states that the amount pledged for CY 2020 attained an historic high of \$3,210,000 and that there were 410 new pledges. I furthermore should note that the special Health & Safety Fund, though not part of our FY2020 income, amounted to more than \$177,000.

On behalf of my fellow Jesuits, Frs. Earl, Hawley, Kelley and Simiski, I am grateful for your extraordinary generosity. In so many ways you have helped Holy Trinity Catholic Church and Holy Trinity School continue to do the things necessary so as to sustain and create ways of serving Christ throughout the year.



Rev. C. Kevin Gillespie, S.J.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH - FINANCIAL RESULTS (\$000)

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020 (SUBJECT TO AUDIT)

	Actual FY 2019	Actual FY 2020
Parish Revenues		
Pledge and Offertory	\$3,411	\$3,630
Holiday Collection	\$212	\$400
Contributions & Donations	\$790	\$410
Religious Education	\$176	\$186
Weddings/Sacraments	\$75	\$82
*Columbarium Niche Sales	\$763	—
Other Revenue	\$117	\$105
Total Parish Revenues	\$5,543	\$4,813
Parish Expenditures		
Liturgy & Music	\$498	\$437
Rectory & Clergy	\$243	\$254
Religious Education	\$330	\$317
Youth Ministry	\$32	\$55
Ignatian Spirituality	\$228	\$236
Social Concerns	\$606	\$510
Admininstration	\$768	\$738
Physical Plant	\$1,573	\$1,142
Stewardship	\$204	\$239
*Columbarium Expenditures	\$767	—
Capital Expenditures	\$1	\$311
Other Expenses	\$438	\$445
Total Parish Expenditures	\$5,689	\$4,685
Total Parish Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$146)	\$128
School Revenues		
Tuition & Tutoring	\$4,205	\$4,328
After School	\$320	\$183
Contributions & Donations	\$710	\$524
Scholarships & Grants	\$243	\$211
Parish Tuition Assistance	\$575	\$575
All Other Revenue	\$214	\$188
Total School Revenues	\$6,286	\$6,010
School Expenditures		
Instruction	\$3,168	\$3,382
Operations & Maintenance	\$221	\$258
Administration	\$915	\$990
Auxilliary Services	\$595	\$481
After School	\$256	\$265
Reserve Fund, Capital & Other	\$539	\$59
Parish Rent	\$575	\$575
Total School Expenditures	\$6,268	\$6,010
Total School Surplus/(Deficit)	\$0	\$0
Columbarium Revenues		
*Columbarium Niche Sales	\$763	\$636
Named Gift Contributions	\$75	\$327
Total Columbarium Revenues	\$838	\$963
Columbarium Expenditures		
*Construction & Capital Costs	\$767	\$1,978
Perpetual Care Endowment & Admin Fees	—	\$486
Total Ccolumbarium Expenditures	\$767	\$2,465

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FISCAL YEAR 2020 OVERVIEW (JULY 01, 2019–JUNE 30, 2020)

In the interest of transparency and accountability, this report is made available annually to parishioners. Audited financial statements are available for review by parishioners during normal business hours. Questions may be directed to Chris Kehoe, Director of Finance, at (202) 903-2811 or ckehoe@trinity.org.

Total parish operating revenue for the fiscal year was \$4,813,000. Contributions toward the annual Parish Pledge program were \$3,103,000. Other offertory and holiday collections amounted to \$926,000. All other sources of revenue including Religious Education, Sacramental gifts, bequests and other contributions were \$784,000. Ordinary parish expenditures were \$4,485,000 and funded the many ministries and activities of Holy Trinity. Campus Capital Improvements and Reserve Fund contributions amounted to \$439,000. In summary, Holy Trinity's operating results were favorable considering the challenges of the pandemic and a budgeted deficit of \$187,000.

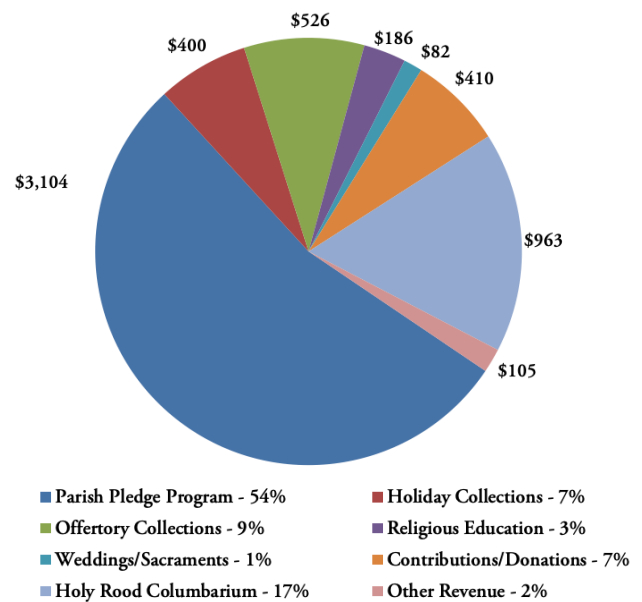
The Holy Trinity Columbarium at Holy Rood Cemetery project was completed at a total cost of \$2,800,000. Named gift contributions and niche reservations for the fiscal year were \$963,000.

The 2013 Capital Campaign was closed as of December 31, 2019. By all measures this effort was very successful. Time and financial commitments of parishioners and school families were outstanding and the objectives to deliver major upgrades to facilities and program funding for Social Justice and Ignatian Spirituality were entirely fulfilled.

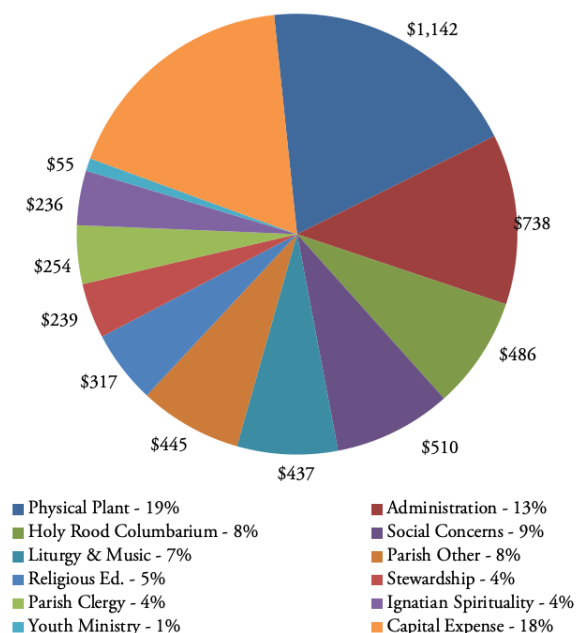
For 2021, our goal is to increase the Parish Pledge given the increase in expenses. We are projecting an operating

PARISH REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH FY 2020 ACTUAL – REVENUES (\$000)

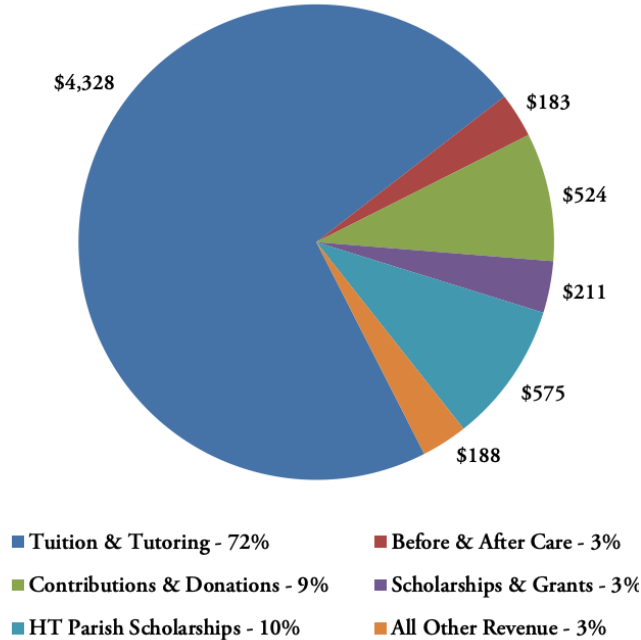


HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH FY 2020 ACTUAL – EXPENDITURES (\$000)



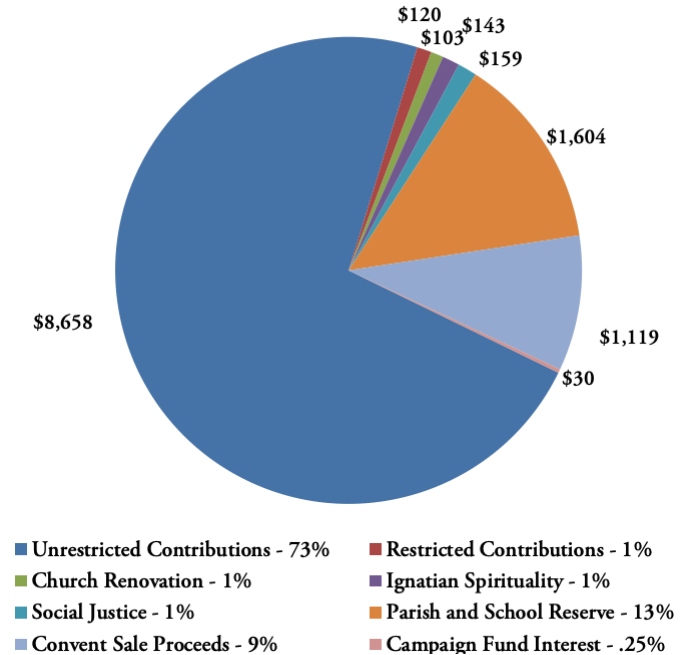
SCHOOL REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

**HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL
FY 2020 ACTUAL – REVENUES (\$000)**

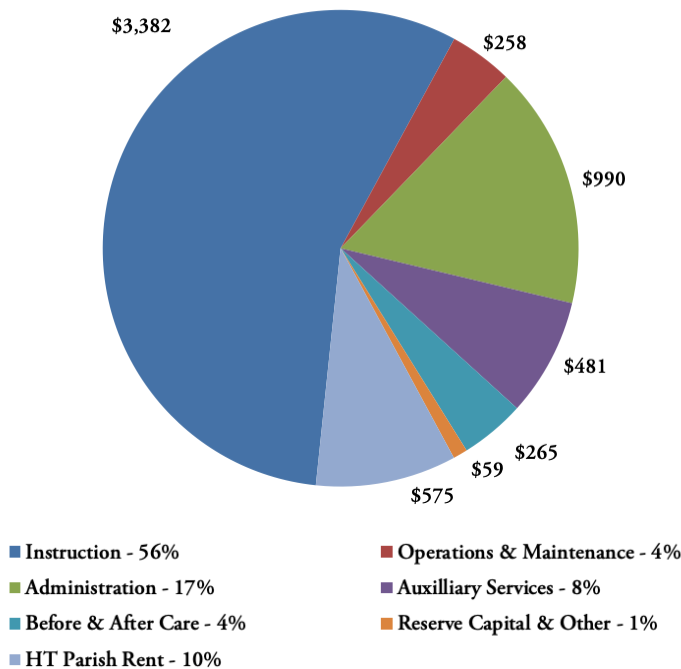


CAPITAL CAMPAIGN THROUGH 6/30/20

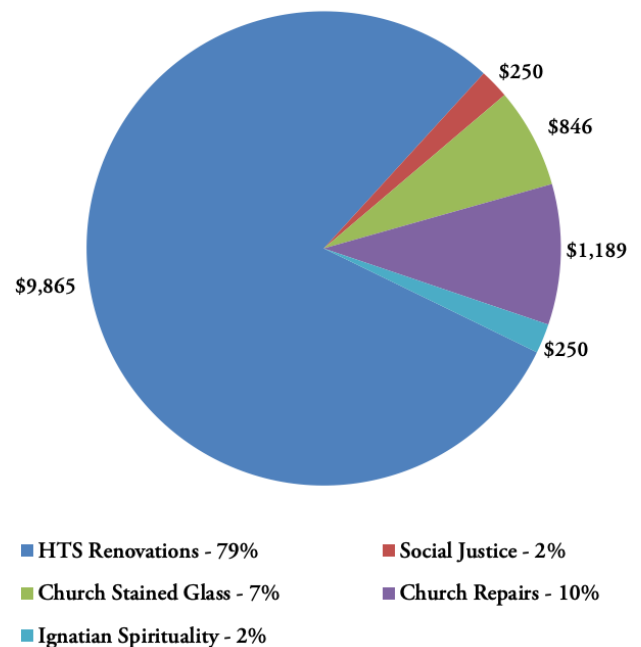
**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS (\$000)
\$12.5M GOAL, \$12M RECEIVED**



**HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL
FY 2020 ACTUAL – EXPENDITURES (\$000)**



**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES (\$000)
\$12.5M GOAL, \$12.4M RELEASED**



deficit of almost \$200,000 for next year if we do not raise income. We are asking all who worship at Holy Trinity to consider making a Pledge if they have not done so before, and for those who give regularly to increase their giving. Households who have not yet had an opportunity to give are being asked to prayerfully consider offering their financial support to the work of Christ through the many ministries of our parish.

STEWARDSHIP

The amount pledged for CY 2019 was \$3,196,389, of which \$2,895,880 or 90.5% was received in 2019. The amount pledged and paid was likely impacted by the clergy child abuse scandals.

At the end of FY 2020 (June 30, 2020), we had:

- \$3,100,167 received from the annual pledge program with an additional \$40,898 pledges to specific parish programs
- \$403,550 received from Holiday (largely Easter and Christmas) pledges/gifts
- \$539,312 received from otherwise undesignated Offertory

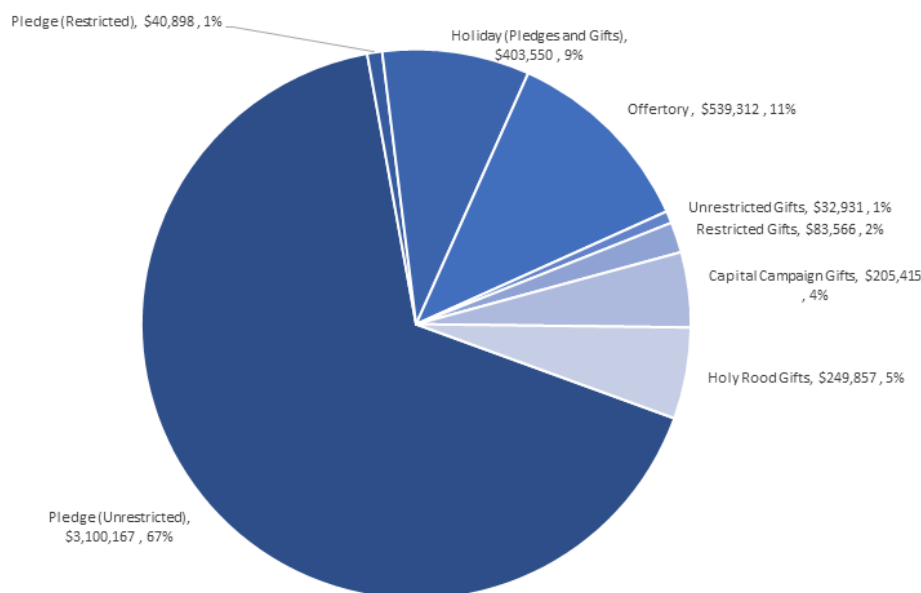
These amounts total \$4,043,028 — up 11% over FY 2019, 6% over FY 2018, and 9% over FY 2017.

As of 8/30/20, the amount pledged for CY 2020 had risen to an historic high of \$3,210,000. Of this, \$457,777 was from 410 new pledges. Year-over-year pledges, 2019-to-2020, were up 5%.

Three special campaigns continued or were launched in 2020:

1. Columbarium donations, currently at \$618,800 pledged and \$434,229 received to-date. Fundraising continues, with every \$25,000 in donations entitled the donor to a complimentary niche.
2. Easter Fund; this was our first intentional effort to raise funds in honor of Easter, with \$217,775 donated as of 6/20/20 (up 290% from 2019's Easter offering, and 308% from 2018's).
3. The Health & Safety Fund, to mitigate risks from COVID-19 for those attending in-person worship. raised over \$177,000, exceeding our \$150,000 goal.
4. Finally, we closed the Capital Campaign as of the end of the FY (June 30, 2020) with total receipts of \$9,200,410.
5. The Holy Trinity School Annual Fund for 2019-2020 raised \$349,000. Additionally, the school raised another \$89,000 in restricted donations. Activities sponsored by HTS's Home & School Association (HSA) raised a net of \$169,000.

STEWARDSHIP 2020



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



PARISH COMMUNITY

5,937 Registered Households

101 Ministries, Groups, Programs & Committees



PARISH STAFF

5 Priests

2 Full-Time

4 Pastoral Associates

9 Weekend Associate Priests

2 Music Staff Members

1 Full-Time // 1 Part-Time

8 Operations/Administrative Staff Members

15 Support Staff Members

10 Full-Time // 5 Part-Time



LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS*

2,000 Faithful Gather for Sunday Eucharist

7 Sunday Masses

2 Daily Masses

543 Liturgical Ministers

**Numbers applicable prior to pandemic. See the Liturgy & Music section on page 8 for updates.*



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH FORMATION

594 Religious Education Students

122 Catechists

100+ Volunteers



IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY & PRAYER

256 Individuals engaged in retreats in daily life

58 Individuals engaged in young adult retreats

20 Individuals made the full Spiritual Exercises

15 Member Ecumenical Retreat Team

15 Associates in Ignatian and Faber Training Programs

12 Women Engaged in ISP Retreats



SOCIAL JUSTICE

\$388,612 in Tithe Distributions

\$46,879 donated to COVID-19 Relief Fund

40 Organizations Supporting the Poor & Vulnerable



HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL

336 Enrolled Students

27% Racially/Ethnically Diverse

\$650,000 in Need-Based Financial Aid

9 Years Average Teacher Tenure

65% of Teachers Hold Advanced Degree

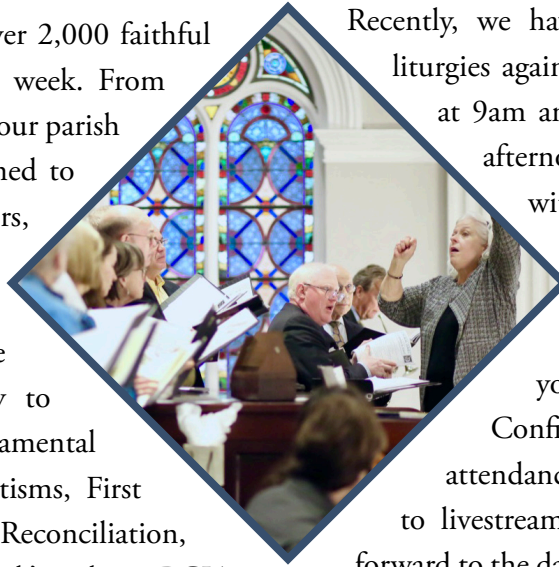
LITURGY & MUSIC

The liturgical life at Holy Trinity is the heart of our parish community. On average, over 2,000 faithful gather for Sunday Eucharist each week. From the tables of Word and Sacrament, our parish is fed, strengthened and transformed to accompany our brothers and sisters, especially the poor and vulnerable.

While Sunday has remained the primary day for the community to gather, our normal course of sacramental celebrations including infant Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmation, Reconciliation, adult initiation through the parish's robust RCIA process, funerals and even weddings were put on hold or postponed due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. This virus has disturbed our liturgical life in a very particular way this year. As we know, we are never more the Church than when we gather for the Eucharist, but the virus has prevented our gathering. How can we be the incarnate body of Christ, gathered around the tables of Word and Sacrament if we cannot gather to eat and drink, lay hands, anoint with oil, or wash in the waters of rebirth? We boldly proclaim we continue to encounter the living God in our bodies and communities, through the sign and symbol of God's creation, celebrated in the gathering of God's holy people. And so, our liturgical community had to create new ways to gather to pray.

Almost immediately, the parish community turned to celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours three times weekly using Zoom. These opportunities for Morning and Evening Prayer have provided an important way to gather in prayer and community. Almost 100 individuals participate each week. Even the Easter Triduum turned to Zoom this year. The Great Three Days were celebrated with modified liturgies on the interactive platform with almost 1,000 participants. A five week long virtual teaching Mass was sponsored by the Liturgy Office in

the summer with well over 80 people in attendance each week.



Recently, we have begun to gather for in-person liturgies again. Sunday Morning Masses are held at 9am and 12 Noon in the Church and an afternoon Mass at Holy Rood Cemetery with no more than 50 individuals in attendance. The Sacraments of Initiation have begun again, too, with individual Masses for young people to celebrate Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist. While attendance is limited, the parish has begun to livestream the 9am Sunday Mass. We look forward to the day when we can all gather again safely at the table of God's love.

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY & PRAYER

Parishioners and individuals who are seeking God in the Washington area continued to benefit from Holy Trinity's diverse retreat offerings, parish-wide outreach and training programs. Our 15-member ecumenical Ignatian retreat team offered the full Spiritual Exercises over nine months to 20 retreatants, individually-directed Ignatian retreats in daily life to 256 individuals, and met with 82 individuals for individual spiritual direction. In response to the pandemic, we offered for the first time *God Our Refuge and Our Strength* and *Speak the Truth in Love* retreats.

Individuals who wanted to explore Ignatian Spirituality participated in our weekend young adult retreats, weekly Praying in Sacred Space Groups (expanded to twice a week in the first months of the pandemic), and a simple supper and prayer led by the ladies who, in recovery, make the Ignatian Spirituality Project retreats. Attendance at our Movie Moments of Grace film series, with small group discussion, continued to flourish even online.

The Ignatian Spirituality and Jesuit Identity Committee focused on promoting the use of the Presupposition. To that end they created a workshop on the Presupposition, using it to lead several parish committees in a reflection and discussion of assuming good intent in others.

The Young Adult, Education, and Ignatian Spirituality & Jesuit Identity Committees engaged in prayerful reflection on the new Jesuit Universal Apostolic Preferences and explored how to apply them to ministry at Holy Trinity. These same committees, along with the Social Justice Committee and Ignatian Retreat Team, engaged with Ignatian principles of spiritual consolation and spiritual desolation as they discerned their next programmatic steps.

Our HTS faculty and Religious Education catechists welcomed continuing formation in Ignatian Spirituality, as did parents of second-grade school children and Religious Education children preparing for Reconciliation and First Communion.

The advent of the pandemic and quarantine led to a turn to ministry via the internet. Retreats, prayer groups, and faith-sharing gatherings moved online. To aid parishioners' prayer at home, we began offering a guided audio Ignatian prayer based on each Sunday's gospel. Eight individuals completed their second year of the Ignatian Training Program to become a spiritual director. Seven individuals received their certificates for successfully completing the Faber Training Program to give the Spiritual Exercises.

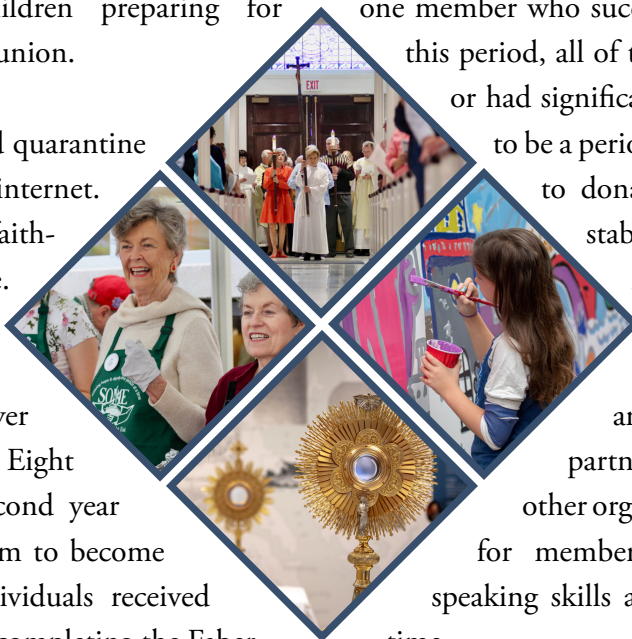
SOCIAL JUSTICE

In the past year, Social Justice has focused efforts on the following areas: caring for creation, migrants & refugees,

poverty and homelessness, and restorative justice. We continued to host speakers to explore individual issues of justice including the environment, institutional racism, immigration, and hunger. With the pandemics, we successfully moved all programming online. We launched a CommuniTea lunch series, kicked off by Fr. Peter Gyves, S.J., to continue to identify opportunities for parishioners to learn more at their pace. Our Women Who Stay program continued to expand and during virtual gatherings welcomed an average of 50 attendees. The HT Green Team hosted monthly meetings with guest speakers and pre-pandemic focused efforts on solar energy and composting.

The Holy Trinity Migrant Team continued to grow and early activities focused on advocacy. We are currently accompanying five families/individuals and providing various levels of support. The pandemic had a severe impact on our migrant *familia*. With the exception of one member who successfully found an IT job during this period, all of the other members lost their jobs or had significantly reduced hours. It continues to be a period of uncertainty and fear. Thanks to donations, we were able to provide stability for all of our families. We had the resources to cover rent and food expenses. Members of the committee provided masks and other safety resources. Our partnerships with parishioners and other organizations provided opportunities for members to strengthen their English speaking skills and financial literacy during this time.

We are in constant contact with parishioners at our sister parishes in Haiti and El Salvador, especially as the pandemic continued. The St. Jean Baptiste committee cultivated their collaboration with Food for the Poor and successfully completed a sanitation project and the construction of a new community center. They are also



working with local carpenters to make new furniture for the schools and new pews for St. Jean Baptiste Church. Our friends in El Salvador continued to struggle with food insecurity and recovery from the spring tropical storms. We provided financial support for food and for the rebuilding of home damaged by the storms.

Many parishioners participated in our annual Thanksgiving meal drive, Christmas Giving Trees, and monthly food collections for the Father McKenna Center. Our school children collected books for unaccompanied minors, packed breakfasts for guests of Catholic Charities shelters and served at the Capitol Area Food Bank. Religious Education also had an active service year, preparing and serving meals for So Others Might Eat (SOME) and adopting families at Christmas from the Spanish Catholic Center. Our advocacy during the year focused on refugees, immigrant youth, and hunger. We joined with Jesuit Refugee Service, Ignatian Solidarity Network, and SALT to ask our congressional representatives to fund programs that provided support to refugees, supported DREAMers, and reduced hunger. In May, we hosted a “Do Something Good for Your Neighbor Day” and throughout the early stages of COVID continued to highlight opportunities to support local organizations.

Beginning in late March, we established a COVID-19 relief fund as we saw dramatic increases in requests for support from partners and individuals almost immediately. We responded as a community to requests from the Fr. McKenna Center, Hope and a Home, the Welcome Home Reentry Project, Little Sisters of the Poor, Sacred Heart (Richmond), Public Defender Services of the District of Columbia, Housing Up, Food for the Poor, Global Response Management-Matamoros, Capital Area Food Bank, Martha’s Table, N Street Village, Spanish Catholic Center and SOME. We also provided meals for parishioners in need and grocery gift cards to individuals who reach out.

Tithe Grants

Since the 1980s, Holy Trinity has committed 10% of parishioners’ regular collections — the tithe — to its ministry of Social Justice. The tithe program seeks to address the root causes of social justice issues both locally and within the global community. We accomplish this in collaboration with members of the parish through prayer and discernment and by giving our time, talents and resources to vulnerable communities. This concrete and ongoing commitment to social justice distinguishes Holy Trinity, and the careful and transparent distribution of tithe monies is an important responsibility of the Social Justice Committee. The Social Justice Tithe Committee distributed \$368,312 to 28 organizations addressing education, food insecurity, housing insecurity, health, advocacy and immigration due to the generous pledges and regular offertory contributions of our parishioners. Originally the large grant focus this year was on youth empowerment and climate change, with an emphasis on programs that engaged youth and offered innovative pathways to job creation. Due to the pandemic, the committee made the decision to adjust our direct service focus to address food and housing insecurity.

We provided support in the following categories: education, advocacy, direct service, sister parishes, parish ministries, large grants, and alms. We were excited to partner with eight new organizations this year. Please visit www.trinity.org/tithe for the full 2019/2020 Tithe Grants report.

FAITH FORMATION AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Faith Formation ministries are orientated to assist parishioners in building an intimate relationship with Christ, through offering lifelong faith formation and sacramental preparation. The ministry is to offer parishioners the means to deepen their understanding and practice of our faith, regardless of where they are on their

faith journey. Through the collaboration with Ignatian Spirituality we continue to offer catechists, parents, and those who participate in sacramental preparation opportunities to grow in their understanding and practice of Ignatian Spirituality and prayer.

This past year has “Zoom”ed by. With the closing of the parish center all sacramental preparation programs, Religious Education for children and adults alike pivoted to a digital platform. For the Sunday morning program the almost 600 students and 100 catechists and substitutes navigated new territory successfully to complete the year. The effect of COVID-19 has greatly impacted our ability to form community and challenged catechists to engage with their students. Their ongoing efforts are in themselves a witness to the dedication to Holy Trinity and the catechetical work in which they are engaging. The Marriage Preparation volunteer facilitators, Baptismal Preparation leaders and Adult Confirmation continued online as well.

The first year of our LGBTQIA+ ministry began with a day of prayer and reflection and continued with monthly meetings. These, too, pivoted to an online platform as they continued to meet, discuss and pray.

The parent presentations, and a summer book discussion “Women Deacons: Past, Present and Future” met virtually over the summer.

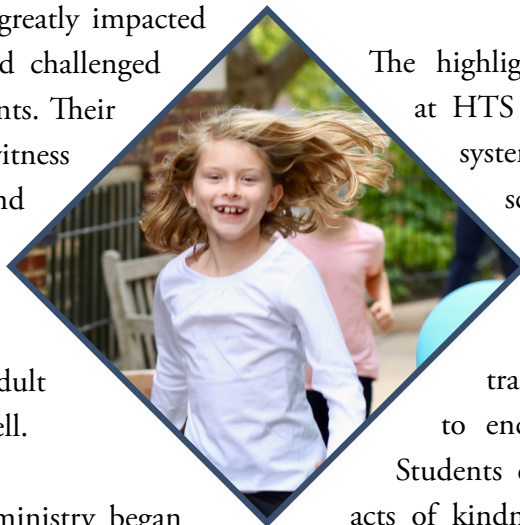
The REAP (Religious Education Advisory Parent) Board, Adult Faith Formation Committee, and over 150 volunteers assisted our staff by preparing materials, supporting classroom activities and programming required for all Faith Formation programs. The generous gift of our volunteers’ talent and time enabled the “good news” to be shared with many of our parish community.

HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL

Holy Trinity School (HTS) remains a beacon in Catholic education in the Washington, D.C. area and indeed the country. The school’s enrollment is strong and our students continue to go on to the top high schools in the Washington area. This year we continued our leadership in the Ignatian elementary school network of parish-based Jesuit elementary schools around the country. The school is fiercely proud to be a ministry of the parish and support the larger parish in all ways.

The highlight of the 2019-2020 school year at HTS was the introduction of the house system. All students, teachers, and other school employees were divided into six houses: Romero, Arrupe, Day, Juana, Xavier, and Becraft. Each house has a distinctive color and trait which the house members tried to encourage in the school community. Students earned points for their houses with acts of kindness, strong effort, or other positive behaviors. It turned out to generate a lot of positive activity, spirited competition and fun.

The lowlight of the year was of course having to close our buildings and teach remotely for the last two months of the school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the difficult circumstances, teachers, students and their families rallied together to keep moving forward in service, faith and learning. The year concluded with a virtual graduation ceremony highlighted by a poignant speech by our student council president. The strength of the HTS community was never more evident than when we were forced to be apart. The creative ways in which so many people stepped up to keep the school moving forward was remarkable.

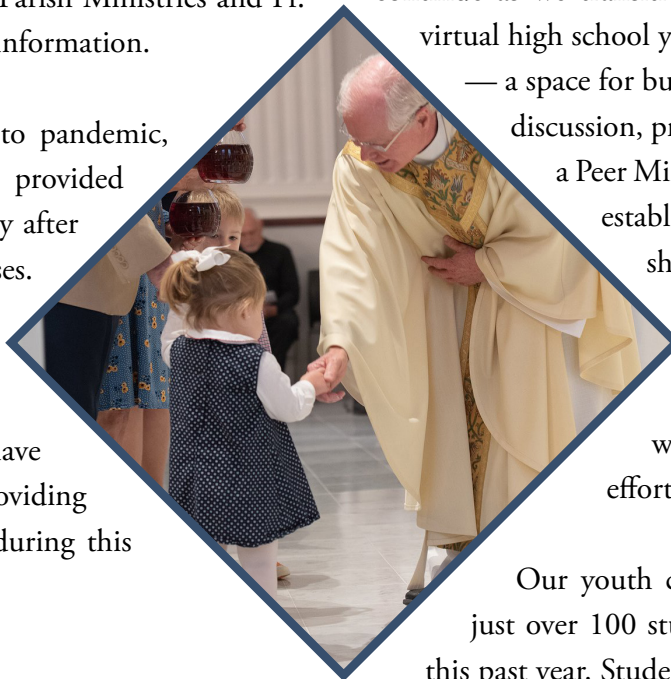


PARISH LIFE

Parish Life welcomed all to actively participate in spiritual and social activities with fellow parishioners. The ministry encompasses a variety of groups for all ages and interests, including the weekly Book Discussion Group, Seminar Group, Garden Ministry, Trinity Adult Singles and 50 Plus Group. For those in need of support, we have our Job Seekers, Grief Support and Separated, Divorced and Widowed Groups, as well as a Prayer Ministry.

Holy Trinity's 225th Anniversary provided many opportunities for participation by the different Parish Life groups as well as other parish groups to plan and execute a wide range of anniversary activities. Some of the activities included a Jesuit Tour of Maryland Sites and Founder's Day weekend, which included the original play, *Mystery on Holy Hill*. In September, the Camp Trinity community celebrated its 35th anniversary with the theme "Parish for Others: Our Past, Present and Future." In November, the Separated Widowed and Divorced Group in conjunction with Ignatian Spirituality sponsored a Day of Reflection. A New Parishioner Orientation was also held in November with representatives from the Parish Ministries and Fr. Gillespie on hand to provide information.

Up until the shutdown due to pandemic, the Hospitality Committee provided coffee and donuts each Sunday after the 9am and 11:30am Masses. Since the shutdown, Parish Life has sponsored a virtual coffee and donuts. Many of the other Parish Life groups have continued to meet virtually providing encouragement and support during this challenging time.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Our growing youth ministry program celebrates God's love all around us through engagement with spirituality, community building and involvement in parish life, and developing an awareness of the social justice concerns of our neighbors.

Our youth ministry program regularly met with three to five high school students on Sunday mornings for discussion and reflection. Youth and families were also invited to regularly participate in parish service projects and the dinner program for the poor at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart. During the pandemic, our youth ministry program transitioned to a virtual platform and hosted the same number of high school students for a virtual youth group on Wednesday evenings throughout the spring and summer. We continued to share life and build community, participate in activities, and discuss and reflect on our call as members of the Church. Daily morning prayer and the Examen were promoted through our Instagram account, and we continued to invite youth and families to find new and creative ways to serve our community, especially with and for those who had been severely impacted by the virus. These efforts continue as we transition into the school year with a virtual high school youth group on Sunday evenings

— a space for building community, learning and discussion, prayer and reflection. In addition, a Peer Ministry Leadership Team has been established for high school students to share ideas for youth ministry and help guide the program in the parish. We continue to invite youth and families to engage with the service and social justice efforts of the parish.

Our youth confirmation program prepared just over 100 students to receive the sacrament this past year. Students from the 8th and 9th grades

met monthly from November through May to reflect on the role of the Holy Spirit in their lives and their lifelong call as baptized Catholics. Ten to 12 adult volunteers, as well as 10 high school students, graciously gave of their time and talent to accompany the candidates and offer support throughout the process. Due to the pandemic, Confirmation Masses were postponed from their original dates in the spring. Over the summer, students received surprise packages of letters in the mail from friends and family as a way to share love and encouragement in their life of faith, especially as they waited to receive the

sacrament and approached a new year of high school. Since August, these candidates have been celebrating Confirmation in small groups with their families in weekly Masses. We are gearing up to welcome another large group of candidates to receive the sacrament in spring 2021.

In this upcoming year, we will continue to foster transformative experiences for youth in order to provide them with the tools needed for a life of faith and action in the universal Church.

