

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE CHURCH

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Sunday, Nov 6 2022

Another reflection into the deep weeds of All Things New. And this one has to do specifically and exclusively with our school apostolate. Let me repeat something I said before: the parish, and the Catholic Church in general does not run schools to provide an alternative to public education. Rather, Catholic Schools exist to make Disciples of Jesus Christ. (I have a lot more to say about this, technically, practically and philosophically. But I'll save that for another time.)

The question is this: What is the 'parish subsidy' to the school? How does it work? What does mean?

You can see how much money the people of the Archdiocese of St. Louis subsidize our parish schools at allthingsnew.archstl.org

At Mary Queen of Peace, the parish has one primary sources of revenue: the Sunday offertory (approx. \$1.6 million dollars a year). It costs about \$2.6 million to run the school annually. Tuition brings in \$1.9 million. The parish subsidizes about \$700,000 (about 27%). That money comes from the Sunday offering. So, the actual cost of educating a child at Mary Queen of Peace is higher than the actual cost of tuition. There are technical, practical and philosophical reasons why the parish subsidizes the school. But that too is an article for another time.

So, let's reflect on that \$700k. Only 622 of our 1400 registered households give to the Sunday basket. Those 622 households give almost all of that \$1.6 million for the parish. (Of those givers, the majority of them do not have school aged children.) From that \$1.6 million, \$700K goes directly to subsidize the school by lowering the cost of tuition. That leaves \$900k to do everything else we need to do as a parish. It seems like a lot but, trust me, it goes quick. Furthermore, the subsidy is still not enough to do large scale capital repairs of improvements (like new roofs, a new parking lot, painting the school, and an expanded playground). In order to that, we would either need to increase revenue or conduct a capital campaign. The only way to increase revenue is to increase the Sunday offering (by either increasing the number of families giving or asking those 622 households to give even more). We could also increase tuition more than we already do. Meanwhile, we are handicapped by the rising costs of pretty much everything and still facing underpaid teachers, increased cost of benefits, deferred capital improvements/repairs, decreasing Mass attendance, decreasing Sunday offertory, and individual/familial financial commitments/prioritization.

In this case, All Things New will accomplish two things:

1. Reorder unrealized assets that can assist with the handicaps I just mentioned.
2. Provide an infrastructure where Evangelization can nourish the spiritual life of existing church goers, invite others back, and sustain the ministerial and apostolic life of the church that is often held back by lack of manpower, will power, and funding.

"Closer to Christ by Loving and Serving as Missionary Disciples"



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If we don't engage with All Things New now, we will spend the next 30 years, and I will spend my entire priesthood, consolidating schools and parishes until we hit sustainability (I've already done this once and it's not fun!). All Things New will free us from constraint and worrying over the future. All Things New will give us an opportunity to work with the Holy Spirit in fashioning a church and school that will be here for our children's children. And beyond. All Things New will renew our commitment to Stewardship and Evangelization. And that, coupled with the Grace of the Holy Spirit and Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is how you renew a church.

Know that you are loved dearly and prayed for daily.

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