



DIVINE MERCY PARISH

SACRED HEART CHURCH • ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH

# STEWARDSHIP REPORT FISCAL 2023

DIVINE MERCY PARISH IS A WELCOMING  
COMMUNITY THAT INSPIRES DISCIPLES OF JESUS TO  
SHARE GOD'S LOVE AND TRANSFORM THE WORLD.

# DIVINE MERCY PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

## FISCAL 2023

### PASTOR'S INTRODUCTION

Dear Divine Mercy Parishioners,

I have been here for a total of ten years, five years as pastor of the former Sacred Heart Parish and then, with the merger of Sacred Heart with Saint Philip the Apostle Parish, five years as pastor of Divine Mercy Parish. Over the course of these ten years, we have shared with you an annual stewardship report.

Transparency is important. Especially since we rely on your gifts and donations to engage in the ministry of Christ.

If, in reading this most recent report you have questions, please do not hesitate to email me or Michelle Wasielewski, our Director of Operations. We will do our best to respond to you.

My thanks to the members of the Finance Council. They meet monthly to advise us on all matters financial. They are an invaluable help as we act as stewards of God's gifts and blessings to us.

Speaking of "gifts," this is the second year of *The Way Forward*, our five-year strategic plan, a great gift to all of us, put together by the Parish Council. Year Two focuses us on **Community**. Please feel free to take some time to familiarize yourself with the strategic plan, which is available on our website [here](#).

We are bound together in the Lord Jesus, sacramentally, prayerfully, ministerially, and socially. As Saint Paul reminds us, "Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other" (Romans 12:4-5).



### PARISH LEADERSHIP

Thank you to the parishioners and staff members who, by being active participants in our parish councils and boards, lead our parish towards the future. As pastor, Father Steve, consults with the Senior Leadership Team to develop tactics, the Parish Council to develop high-level objectives and measurements that help achieve our vision, and the Finance Council to determine funding strategies and spending priorities.

#### FY 23 Senior Leadership Team

Fr. Steven Lanza, Pastor

Kathleen Clarke

Judy Pyke, Director of Communications

Patty Sanfilippo, Director of Evangelization & Lifelong Form.

Cathy Stegich

Liz McGowen, Director of Pastoral Care, Outreach & Events

#### FY 23 Parish Council

Father Steve Lanza, Pastor

Susan Seeberg, Chair

Terry Brennan

Kevin Carlson

Jim Dietz

Peter Eck

Sam Fifer

Liz Harvey

Siobhan Hill

Sara Lanser

Dobson Schofield

Hunter Williams

Judy Pyke, Director of Communications

Michelle Wasielewski, Director of Operations

#### FY 23 Finance Council

Father Steve Lanza, Pastor

Gerry Schroeder, Chair

Cindy Atsaves, Director of Finance

Terry Brennan

Tim Castellini

Tim Drehkoff

Mary Ann Martin

Michelle Wasielewski, Director of Operations

In addition, the following boards are essential to ensuring that lay leadership in the parish is fully engaged and serving an effective role in supporting our efforts.

- Sacred Heart School Board
- Children's Ministry Board
- Evangelization Board
- Outreach Board
- Liturgy Board
- School Endowment Board



# DIVINE MERCY PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

## FISCAL 2023

### NOTABLE FY 2023 EVENTS

#### STRATEGIC PLAN

At the time we wrote and issued this stewardship report last year, we had recently finalized and made public our five-year strategic plan, *The Way Forward*, which sets forth our focus on these particular areas of parish life: evangelization, community, discipleship, ministry and worship. We continue to refine our goals for each year in real-time and are proud to see Divine Mercy moving forward!

#### EVANGELIZATION

In line with year one of our parish strategic plan, we had nearly 100 guests participate in an Alpha course, bringing the total number of guests to almost 400 since we started the Alpha program in 2019.



Our evangelization efforts post-Alpha included multiple Advent and Lent faith reflection groups, a bible study with Father John Kartje, Rector of Mundelein Seminary and President of St. Mary of the Lake, adult formation events with our neighboring parishes, Sts. Faith Hope and Charity and Sts. Joseph and Francis Xavier on topics including Marriage, Divorce and Annulment, Three Pastors Lenten Reflections and Signs, Superstitions and God's Plan—the Human Quest for Meaning, as well as several organic small faith-sharing Connect groups.

We continue to publish a monthly newsletter, *Connections*, where we shared the faith journeys of nearly 30 parishioners!



Our focus on creating a welcoming environment for Masses, Funerals, Weddings and special events continues to be a top priority. Everyone enjoys our 2nd Sunday hospitality events, and especially, the donut holes!

#### OUTREACH

- Enhanced the Uncle Pete's ministry to become parishioner-led and financially self-sufficient.
- Re-engaged with A Just Harvest when they reopened for daily lunch service in November, providing food and servers on the 3rd Sunday of the month.
- Continued the Christmas sharing tradition with both sharing parishes, collecting \$14,531 in gift cards for their benefit.
- Conducted a Lenten Clothing Drive for the homeless and needy.
- Established a relationship with the Little Village Community Council to provide essentials to asylum seekers.
- Assisted Sacred Heart School and Children's Ministry to plan and execute service opportunities.



#### PASTORAL CARE

- Created new opportunities for parishioners, including a Women's Network, a bereavement ministry, a caregiver support group and a Parent-Tot group.
- Assembled a pastoral care committee and conducted a survey to elicit parishioner interest in various areas of pastoral care.



#### EVENTS

Divine Mercy continues to develop parish events that are in line with our vision and strategic plan. To that end, we hosted an inaugural Party in the Park "fun" raiser in Fall 2022 that was repeated in 2023. We also revitalized and changed up Advent by Candlelight, an evening of faith and fellowship for women. Parish families and young children enjoyed new events such as a Christmas Caroling party and Super Fun Saturday. Furthermore, our college students, along with college students from our sharing parishes, benefitted from new college care package parties.



# DIVINE MERCY PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

## FISCAL 2023

### SACRAMENTS BY THE NUMBERS

During fiscal 2023, we celebrated the following sacraments and liturgies across both church sites, in addition to our regular Mass schedule.

49 Infant baptisms  
51 First Communions  
56 Confirmations  
7 Weddings  
24 Funerals  
2 Adult Baptisms  
5 Adult Confirmations  
3 Adults Received into Full Communion



### INVESTMENT OF EXCESS FUNDS

Based on a review of our very strong financial position by our Finance Council, \$7.8 Million in assets at 6/30/23, we identified an opportunity to see a return on the investment of our “excess” cash in a growth fund maintained at Northern Trust. The balance in this fund at June 30, 2023 is \$3.1 Million.

The Archdiocesan Finance Council and its Investment Committee make the investment decisions for this fund (70% Equity and 30% Fixed) with the assistance of Cambridge Associates, investment advisor. The scope of the annual audit of the Archdiocese, conducted by Deloitte, includes all Archdiocesan investment funds.

### ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CONVENT

Hyde Park Day School (HPDS) approached us in the summer of 2022 about leasing additional space in the convent at that campus for administrative offices. We felt the additional revenue from doing so would be a win for the parish. We successfully relocated parish events to other spaces on our campuses and we are grateful to the Crafty Ladies for their flexibility!

### THANK YOU TO RESIDENT AND VISITING PRIESTS

We are blessed to have the continued assistance of Fr. Bob Heinz, a full-time resident at the Sacred Heart rectory and Fr. Ken Kiepora, who resides at the St. Philip rectory from May through October. Fr. John Kartje, the rector at St. Mundelein Seminary is also generous in sharing his time and talent with Divine Mercy. Thank you, Fathers, for all that you do for us!

### BUILDING PROJECTS

We strive to make the best decisions regarding the maintenance and upkeep of the nine buildings on our two campuses. During fiscal 2023 and in subsequent months we completed the following projects, some of which were initiated in the previous fiscal year:

- ◆ Installation of new signage for Divine Mercy Parish at both campuses;
- ◆ Refinishing of wooden doors at the Sacred Heart church and rectory;
- ◆ Finishing of new windows installed in the parish office building;
- ◆ Painting of parish office building interior;
- ◆ Masonry repairs to Sacred Heart School chimney;
- ◆ Electrostatic painting of 1st floor lockers (interior and exterior) at Sacred Heart School;
- ◆ Installation of 3M protective window film on doorways and windows at Sacred Heart School;
- ◆ Installation of new Voice Over Internet Phone System, including safety and lockdown features at Sacred Heart School;
- ◆ Installation of new SMART boards in all classrooms at Sacred Heart School;
- ◆ Engagement of an architect to design a new playground for Sacred Heart School; completion of several rounds of discussions with the Village of Winnetka regarding permitting and civil engineering requirements;
- ◆ Replacement of hardware on Hyde Park Day School doors;
- ◆ Repair of 30+ windows at Hyde Park Day School;
- ◆ Overhaul of St. Philip the Apostle Church air conditioning, including additional 30 pounds of freon gas;
- ◆ Replacement of circulating fan in vestibule of St. Philip the Apostle Church;
- ◆ Replacement of exterior lights at St. Philip the Apostle Church with LED fixtures;
- ◆ Replacement of one of four circulating pumps in basement of St. Philip rectory;



# DIVINE MERCY PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

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### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Ministry continues to bring children and their families closer to Jesus. Currently, **250 children** are enrolled in both Sunday morning and Sunday evening family catechesis, called Family Faith Connections. We are blessed to have more than **26 catechists**, including **nine new ones**, and a record **20 teen aides**. The teens truly add an invaluable dimension to our ministry.

Our Children's Ministry Masses continue to fill the church. We tie grade level Masses to a church tour, whereby children gain a better understanding of Catholic traditions and rituals, with a behind-the-scenes look at vestments, vessels and more. The children also participate in the liturgy in an age-appropriate way. Confirmation candidates serve as greeters, and we are launching a **Family Greeting Ministry** so younger children get involved, provide a warm welcome for parishioners and engage families in service.

This year we hope to have even more service and liturgical experiences for the children, ranging from:

- Visiting Temple Jeremiah to understand the Jewish faith (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>)
- Walking the Stations of the Cross using a book written for children (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>)
- Visiting the Shrine of All Saints with a tour led by Fr. Dennis O'Neill to aid in choosing a saint name (8<sup>th</sup>)
- Starting a Sponsor Program to celebrate their special role in Confirmation
- Hosting National Family Day February 11 where children bring a special family member or friend to sessions
- Hosting a new Catechist Retreat Day
- Starting Parent Catechesis Coffees so parents can get to know one another and brush up on their Catholicism.

Service will be integral to the curriculum to provide a better understanding of Catholic Social Teaching. We plan to have:

- Hands-on lunch-making sessions where our oldest can help the youngest
- Water bottle collection for families in need
- Letter-writing and pictures drawn for the imprisoned in partnership with Kolbe House Jail Ministry
- Thanksgiving Turkey and Canned Food Drive for St. Moses the Black Food Pantry at Thanksgiving, and more.

Christmas, once again, will be highlighted by our beautiful Christmas Pageant. Last year, nearly thirty 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade children reenacted the beautiful story of the Baby Jesus's birth.

Moreover, we have relaunched **Children's Liturgy of the Word** at the 10a.m. Mass with a new cadre of volunteers.



### SACRED HEART SCHOOL

The 2022-23 school year was another year to be proud of at Sacred Heart School. Our 8th grade volleyball team capped off an excellent season with a championship win! We maintained our impressive academics with 92% of our students at or above grade level in math and 93% in reading. We graduated 16 students to top area schools, with students receiving a number of academic accolades. We celebrated our community at Nite Lites (3rd highest fundraising ever!), which allowed us to make immediate and significant improvements in our school (piano lab and music program upgrades, STEAM lab upgrades) and investments in our teaching staff (funding of a nationally recognized teacher training program).

The 2023-2024 school year has kicked off and our 156 Vikings (compared to 185 at the beginning of the FY 23 school year) are well underway to great learning opportunities, faith education and all around excellence.

Over the summer, Sacred Heart School welcomed a new Principal, Mrs. Jodi Reuter. Mrs. Reuter comes to Sacred Heart with 26 years experience in the Chicago Archdiocese as a former teacher, parent, and administrator, most recently at St. Catherine Laboure in Glenview. Mrs. Reuter is also a product of Catholic education herself from grade school through college. So, it's safe to say that Catholic education is in her blood!

# DIVINE MERCY PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

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### SACRED HEART SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

Upon her arrival at Sacred Heart School this past summer, Mrs. Reuter and her team got right to work getting up to speed on facility upgrades and improvements, staff recruitment, and plans for the year. Some of those projects were:

- Interviewing and hiring ten new staff members ranging from classroom assistants, teachers, and Students Services team. We are so blessed to have these candidates come to us with professional experience, a love and dedication to children and education, and a drive to serve in Catholic education.
- Our plan to significantly improve the playground area is moving forward, with construction to be completed by the beginning of the 2024-25 school year. In the meantime, the area was repaved and sealed, new wood chips and railroad ties were installed, and tree trimming was completed.
- The Winnetka Police Department did a walk-through and assessment with the school and gave suggestions on areas to improve/fix/replace. 3M safety and security film was installed on the glass of the main entrance doors, all exterior doors, classroom doors, and the entire first floor classroom windows. This film serves to stop or slow down the entry of an unwanted person or object.
- A new phone system was installed.
- New SMART boards were installed in every classroom. The school was able to obtain grant funding for this project and staff had professional development to learn how to use these instructional tools.
- The exterior of the school received some new painted railings, new flowers, mulch, tree removal, and planters for a “spruced up” and welcoming feel.
- The interior foyer of the school was painted, and lockers in the Early Childhood halls were also refreshed to create a bright and more modern feel.

As you can see, it takes a village to do so many things in such a short time! However, the one thing that remains the same is the dedication to Sacred Heart students’ education. Sacred Heart School looks forward to a high-achieving, joyful, and enthusiastic year where faith, service, and family prevail.



# DIVINE MERCY PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

## FISCAL 2022 INCOME STATEMENT 7/1/2022-6/30/2023

	CHURCH	FY 2023 REL ED	SCHOOL	TOTAL	FY 2022 TOTAL
<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>					
Sunday, Christmas & Easter Collections	\$ 1,176,997	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,176,997	\$ 1,212,286
Tuition	\$ -	\$ 53,899	\$ 1,386,291	\$ 1,440,190	\$ 1,554,842
Fees	\$ -	\$ 7,638	\$ 141,198	\$ 148,836	\$ 143,101
Fundraising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 296,972	\$ 296,972	\$ 250,000
Rental Income	\$ 298,641	\$ -	\$ 14,205	\$ 312,846	\$ 288,553
Miscellaneous <sup>1</sup>	\$ 402,510	\$ 2,701	\$ 94,235	\$ 499,446	\$ 197,101
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 1,878,148</b>	<b>\$ 64,238</b>	<b>\$ 1,932,901</b>	<b>\$ 3,875,287</b>	<b>\$ 3,645,883</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSE</b>					
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 943,896	\$ 75,728	\$ 1,700,297	\$ 2,719,921	\$ 2,527,726
Admin, Books, Supplies, Technology	\$ 76,310	\$ 13,552	\$ 136,792	\$ 226,654	\$ 190,496
Utilities	\$ 181,343	\$ -	\$ 75,585	\$ 256,928	\$ 273,224
Maintenance	\$ 214,961		\$ 176,343	\$ 391,304	\$ 412,755
Liturgical Supplies & Miscellaneous	\$ 94,172		\$ 35,505	\$ 129,677	\$ 139,070
Insurance	\$ 133,189	\$ -	\$ 43,898	\$ 177,087	\$ 176,256
Archdiocesan Assessment	\$ 184,440	\$ 5,863	\$ 9,300	\$ 199,603	\$ 226,254
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,828,311</b>	<b>\$ 95,143</b>	<b>\$ 2,177,720</b>	<b>\$ 4,101,174</b>	<b>\$ 3,945,781</b>
<b>NET OPERATING RESULTS</b>	<b>\$ 49,837</b>	<b>\$ (30,905)</b>	<b>\$ (244,819)</b>	<b>\$ (225,887)</b>	<b>\$ (299,898)</b>
Endowment Withdrawal <sup>2</sup>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 210,785
Parish Support of Education - Operations	\$ (49,837)	\$ 30,905	\$ 18,932	\$ -	\$ -
Parish Support of Education - Savings <sup>3</sup>			\$ 145,887	\$ 145,887	
Reserves From PPP Years					\$ 89,113
<b>FINAL OPERATING RESULTS</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

### FOOTNOTES:

<sup>1</sup>Miscellaneous income includes income from estates and the parish rebate received from the Annual Catholic Appeal (\$107K in FY 2023 and \$71K in FY 2024).

<sup>2</sup>Endowment withdrawal is calculated per the terms of the governance documents. \$100K of the \$180K FY 2023 withdrawal was earmarked for non-operating capital expenditures (locker painting, façade enhancements, etc.) at the school, leaving \$80K to fund the operating budget.

<sup>3</sup>In FY 2023, the school experienced a drop-off in enrollment, necessitating parish support from balance sheet reserves. We are expecting this trend to begin to turn around in FY 2024. Fortunately, our balance sheet is strong and can provide this support in the short-term.



# DIVINE MERCY PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

## FISCAL 2023

### BALANCE SHEET 6/30/2023

#### ASSETS

##### Current Assets

##### Checking/Savings

Cash \$ 1,007,356

Cash - Northern Trust Growth Fund \* \$ 3,103,307

School Endowment \$ 3,725,574

Total Current Assets \$ 7,836,237

**TOTAL ASSETS \$ 7,836,237**

#### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

##### Liabilities

##### Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable \$ 10,261

Credit Card \$ 15,245

##### Other Current Liabilities

Prepaid Tuition/Fees \$ 71,624

Other Current Liabilities \$ 1,532,119

Total Other Current Liabilities \$ 1,629,249

##### Total Current Liabilities

Total Equity \$ 6,206,988

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$ 7,836,237**

\* See discussion of this new fund on page 4 of this report. If needed, we can access these funds in 7 days or less.

**Outreach and sharing are greatly valued by  
Divine Mercy Parish.**

#### ARCHDIOCESAN COLLECTIONS

Archdiocesan Priests' Retirement \$ 2,600

Campaign for Human Development \$ 830

Catholic Charities \$ 14,790

Peter's Pence \$ 415

Propagation of the Faith \$ 620

Retired Religious \$ 3,253

Seminary Collection \$ 1,320

Latin America \$ 550

Churches in Central/Eastern Europe \$ 446

Annual Catholic Appeal \$ 170,974

Missionary CO-OP \$ 860

Asylum Seekers \$ 5,509

**Total Archdiocesan Required Collections \$ 202,167**

#### OTHER CHARITABLE COLLECTIONS

A Just Harvest \$ 600

St. Benedict the African \$ 23,342 \*

St. Moses the Black Parish \$ 16,945 \*

Fr. Paul Foundation \$ 7,700

Haiti \$ 198,912

Uncle Pete's Ministry \$ 5,122

**Total Other Charitable Collections \$ 252,621**

\* Represents monetary support in addition to Christmas sharing gifts totaling \$14,531.

