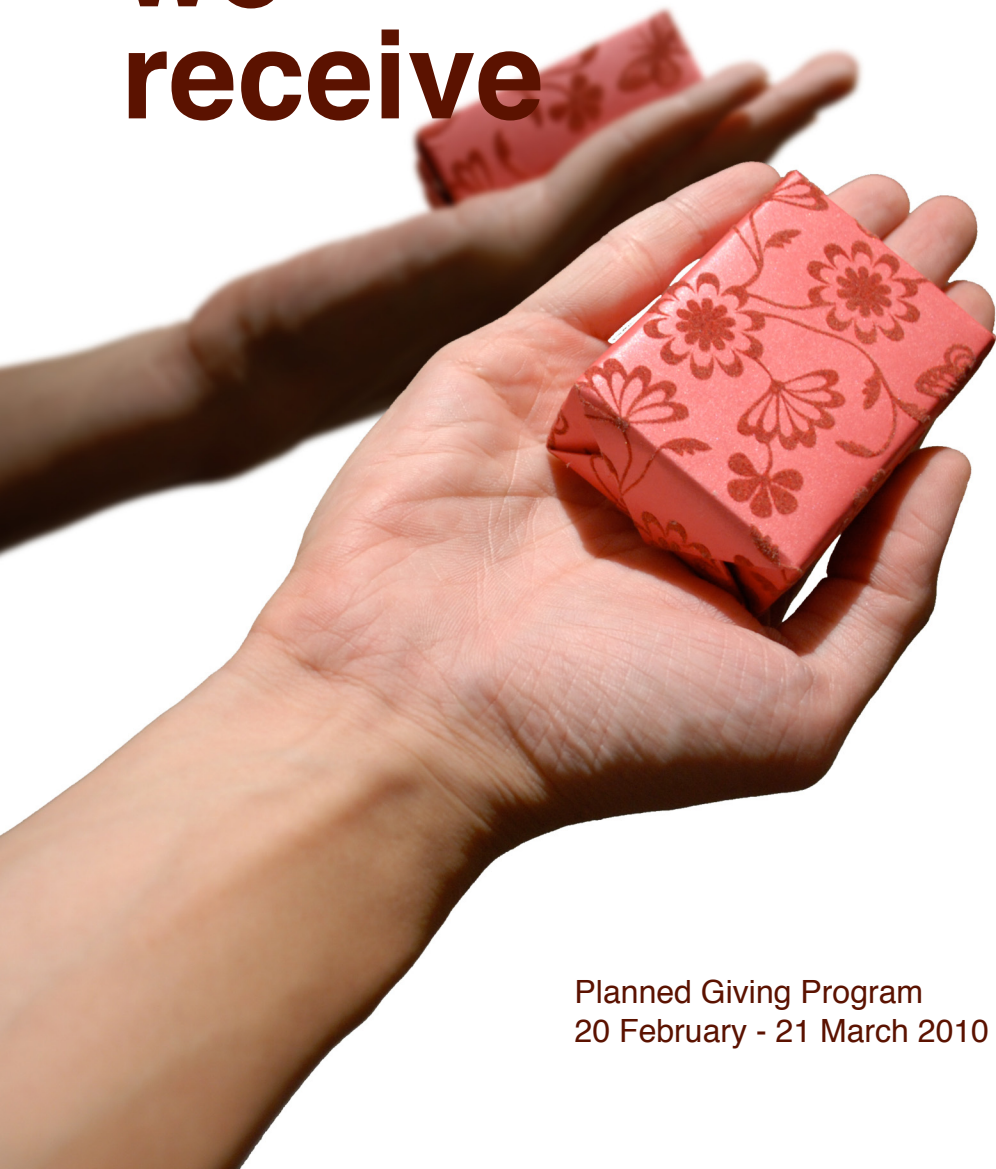




giving we receive



Planned Giving Program
20 February - 21 March 2010

An Important Moment of our Parish Life

“*Giving We Receive*” (Luke 6:38) is the second part of a three-tiered program to engage with the issue of our longer-term financial security and viability as a Catholic presence in our community.

Stage One: Towards the end of last year we distributed a brochure entitled “*Your parish at Work*” outlining the ways in which parishioners and supporters can contribute to the ongoing material needs of the parish.

Stage Two: In the Season of Lent 2010, traditionally a time to consider sacrifice and commitment, we are undertaking a renewal of our *Planned Giving Program* addressing in particular the use of Thanksgiving Envelopes and/or regular donations and gifts to the parish.



Stage Three: Later in the year we will attempt to address the need to renovate the home of our parish clergy, *The Priory* in order to provide for and ensure the continuing presence of priests to serve the parish.

As Parish Priest, with the support of, and on behalf of the Augustinian community and our Parish Council, I commend the program to you as parishioners and supporters of the Catholic Community of South Yarra.

This pamphlet is intended to provide some timely and useful information about the parish, its operation, and its needs into the future.

Fr. Brian Buckley O.S.A. P.P.

Message from our Parish Council President

I was recently reading a local history and came upon a section about the Catholic Parish of South Yarra. Essentially, the Catholics had been given a large holding of land on Punt Road, as had the other churches, but had sold it and moved to Fitzgerald Street and later also to Bromby Street, to be closer to those in need of the comfort and support of the Church.

That thought process and work continues today. However, it cannot continue without our support.

Planned Giving is a necessary and important part of parish life which in turn allows us all to offer what we can in support of the work of our Parish and Clergy, on a regular basis without the need to concern ourselves during Mass and our spiritual lives as to how we can maintain the services our parish provides.

Planned Giving enables Parishioners to incorporate their financial commitment to the Parish in the weekly or annual budget and ensure the longer-term viability



of what we provide as a vibrant and forward-thinking community.

As current Chair of your Parish Council I commend the Planned Giving Program “Giving We Receive” to all parishioners and respectfully entreat your understanding and co-operation in the coming weeks of the campaign.

Mr. Andrew George
Parish Council President.

Why are we having a Parish Planned Giving Campaign?

- A Planned Giving Program is a normal and regular part of parish life.
 - It has been many years since the last program was conducted in our parish.
 - Our parish finances are at a critical juncture that calls for our awareness and action.
 - The Catholic community attending our churches has changed significantly.
 - We need to provide for the future of the parish.

Facts, Home Truths and Statistics

- 4,500 Catholics live within our parish boundaries (2006 census).
- 450 Catholics are known to us.
- 300 Catholics attend our churches weekly. (Survey 2009)
- 100 subscribers receive our Planned Giving Envelopes.
- 70 subscribers actually use their envelopes regularly.
- \$5.50 is the average weekly offering (2nd collection and loose money). (the 1st collection is for the support of the parish clergy)

Past, Present, Future

Some significant recent achievements in the parish

- 1998 The unoccupied school building at 54 Fitzgerald St, is converted to Emergency Housing Units.
- 2006 The main St. Joseph's school block is renovated to become the Parish Centre.

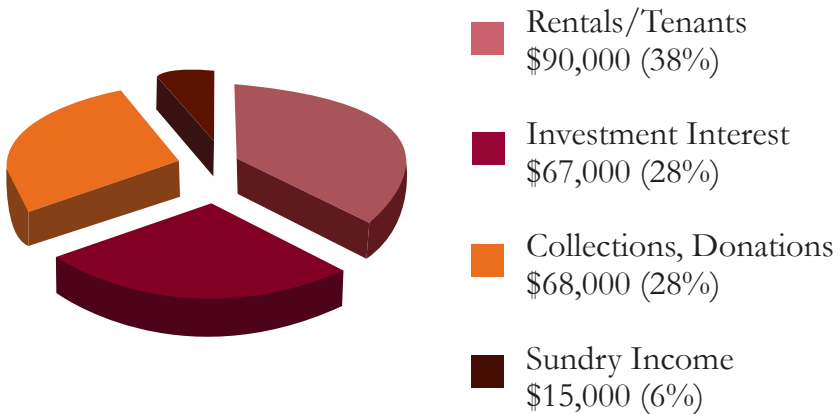


- 2009 State Government grant of \$80,000 for construction of 2 new crisis shelters, matching Emergency Housing funds.
- The former parish convent building is leased to the Haven Foundation to provide accommodation for people living with a mental disability.
- \$60,000 Heritage Grant received towards renovations of St. Joseph's Church (to be matched by parish funding).
- There is no building or facility of the parish that is not being used for a worthy purpose.

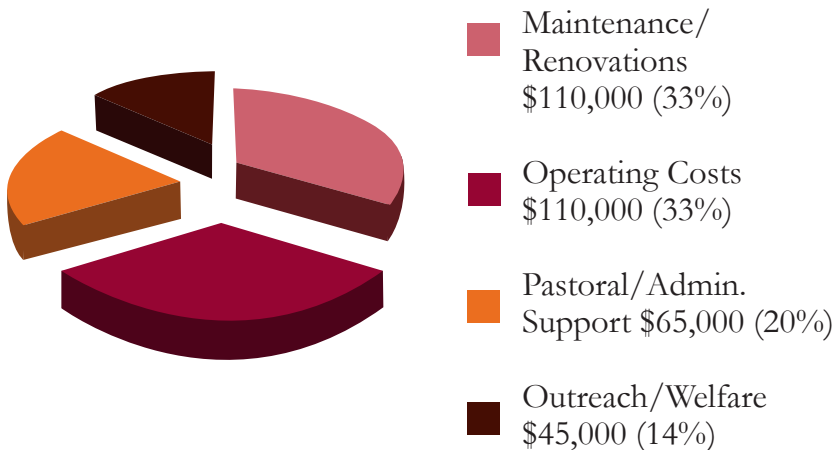
- **For the future:**
- **Ongoing maintenance of heritage buildings at St. Joseph's and St. Thomas'.**
- **Ever-increasing demands on our welfare and outreach programs.**
- **There has been no significant maintenance or renovation conducted on the Priory in the past 40 years!**

Where your Parish Money goes...

Principal Parish Income Items: (2009)



Principal Parish Expenditure Items: (2009)



In recent years the parish has operated with an annual deficit of around \$100,000.

The parish has no further saleable asset.
Rental capacity is close to maximised

Our Goals are Realistic and Achievable

- To create a greater awareness of the parish financial situation, and need to plan responsibly for its future.
- To increase the number of active subscribers and to raise our weekly collections. *(A \$3 increase per person a week would yield an extra \$15,000 annually. A \$5 increase per person would yield an extra \$25,000 annually)*
increment of \$15,000 p.a.
- To explore and develop other ways to supplement parish income.

It is in Giving that we Receive

The Sunday Mass you attend, the baptism, wedding, or funeral you plan, the witness our church community provides to our community through our outreach services are **not something we can take for granted.**

We plan for the material welfare and security of our family, that the next generation may enjoy the same benefits, or better than we ourselves enjoy— **what about their spiritual needs?**

The **Gospel challenge** to be generous with our resources, to sacrifice and to serve others even before ourselves is clear and unambiguous.



My Commitment to the Parish

At the conclusion of the Parish Planned Giving Program (“*Giving We Receive*”) we will invite you to make a commitment or pledge to support the works of the parish in the coming 12 months.

There are a number of options available:

1. You may choose to receive a set of weekly Thanksgiving Envelopes. (you may also use the envelopes without making a weekly pledge)
2. You may prefer to make a regular offering by using our DDR facility debiting a regular amount from your bank account or credit card.
3. You may wish to make a one time donation to the parish.
4. We are happy to meet with you in person or speak with you by phone about any aspect of the Planned Giving Campaign.

Donations to the Parish and Tax Deductibility

Donations to the parish are not tax deductible.

Donations to St. Joseph’s Emergency Housing Association or to St. Joseph’s Crisis Shelter are tax deductible.

For further information please contact the parish office.

The “Giving We Receive” Program Schedule

Week 1 (February 20-27th)

During the first week of the campaign this information brochure will be mailed out to parishioners, distributed at the church door, and the program formally launched at Sunday Masses.

Week 2 (February 27-March 6)

The teaching about Christian giving and the need to support the works of the Church will be presented at Sunday Masses.

Week 3 (March 7-14)

Some of your fellow parishioners will speak at parish Sunday Masses about the present and future needs of the parish. You may be contacted by someone from the parish about making a commitment to the program.

Week 4 (March 15-21)

All pledges will be finalised and a final Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated at the weekend masses and the results of the campaign announced.

