

# AMERICAN MARTYRS CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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NOVEMBER 2015

### *A Letter From Our Pastor*

## *Sustaining and Growing Our American Martyrs Parish Community*

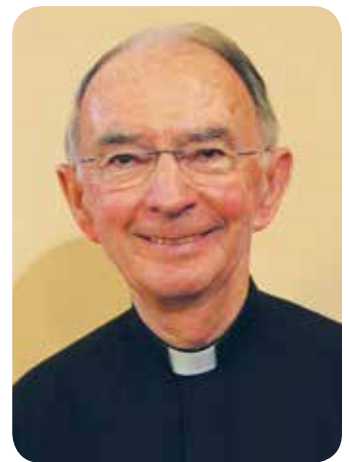
Dear Parishioners,

When I hear the word “renewal,” I think of an action that moves my soul. It brings my heart more into rhythm with the Heart of Christ. At this time of the year, we are blessed to have our Stewardship Renewal, when we review who we are as stewards of God’s gifts and how we gratefully give in return.

Deuteronomy 30:19, God says, *“I am offering you life or death, blessing or curse. Choose life then, so that you and your descendants may live.”*

This is a perfect description of what our parish has done since its first humble beginnings. We have chosen life. We have shared blessings. We have nourished the life of American Martyrs through our generosity in giving of our Time, Talent and Treasure. We have done this as we recognize that the giving to life has been a blessing and an opportunity to return thanks to God. We have built together, we have stretched our hearts, we have blessed and been blessed.

I am asking you to continue this great tradition as we now build for this and following generations. I am excited by our new “prayer walks” – the Way of the Cross and Rosary Walks – leading us to a garden of peace and a Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace and including a memorial wall where we can remember



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## *Making Improvements and Taking Steps*



American Martyrs' vision is to be a welcoming community of faith. And though we all consider this to be a welcoming place, the responses to the parish survey we conducted in 2013 indicated we could do better. So, over the past several years, our Pastoral Council and our Commissions reflected on how we could be a more welcoming parish. You may have noticed that we have made many innovations as a result of those reflections.

We reformed our Greeters and Hospitality Ministries and reorganized our parish staff and school administration to welcome and serve better. We upgraded our technology infrastructure and our phone, Wi-Fi and data management systems to connect us better. We designed a beautiful new sign to welcome visitors to American Martyrs Church. We improved handicapped accesses around the church and created new ways to draw people into prayer beyond the church walls. The path along 15th Street invites everyone to "Walk with Jesus" in Prayer and Reflection and to meditate on the Stations of the Cross. The Rosary pavers along the south side of the church offer a way to pray actively with the Blessed Mother and develop a deeper appreciation for the Mysteries of the Rosary. This Rosary Walk leads to the Memorial Wall and the Marian Shrine and through the Peace Garden where you can sit in peaceful prayer.

In the coming year, we will continue to create more welcoming spaces. We will begin the remodel of O'Donnell Hall, the Sts. Brigid and Brendan Rooms and the Parish Center. We will create a new Welcome Center where parishioners and visitors will be able to go to



# *as a Welcoming Community of Faith*

learn about the Church and find information about how to get involved. The renovated O'Donnell Hall will open onto a new Parish Plaza, creating an indoor-outdoor space where we can gather, not scatter, after Mass and where children can play safely.

The Pastoral Council invites you to attend a parish-wide meeting on Jan. 10, 2016 to view the plans and learn more about the new Welcome Center and Parish Plaza. In the meantime, take advantage of our prayer walks and our "welcoming" improvements, and invite others to enjoy them, as well.



# AMERICAN MARTYRS CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## American Martyrs Church Financial Report to Parishioners Years Ended June 30, 2015 and 2014

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>		
Collections	\$ 2,351,400	\$ 2,607,000
Faith Direct Collections	1,737,500	1,739,900
Parish Fair	255,800	231,300
Designated Gifts & Planned Giving	42,700	297,700
Other Income	224,300	177,500
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b><u>4,611,700</u></b>	<b><u>5,053,400</u></b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>		
Charitable Donations & Outreach	453,900	383,100
Faith Formation	372,700	416,400
Liturgy & Worship	339,700	324,200
Community & Evangelization	41,300	46,300
Stewardship	143,700	155,500
Admin., Insurance & Parish Programs	944,100	980,600
Property Maintenance & Repairs	503,500	497,400
Archdiocesan Support Assessment	402,300	351,600
School Support & Endowment	230,000	230,000
Preschool Endowment	-	22,000
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b><u>3,431,200</u></b>	<b><u>3,407,100</u></b>
<b>RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,180,500</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,646,300</u></b>
<b>FINANCIAL &amp; CAPITAL INVESTMENTS:</b>		
Church/O'Donnell Improvements	\$ 345,500	\$ -
Spirituality Center Roof	12,700	-
Parish Center Sidewalk Improvements	-	26,400
Technology Infrastructure	192,000	218,000
Net Transfers (From) To Investment Funds	538,400	1,349,000
<b>NET INVESTMENT DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,088,600</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,593,400</u></b>
<b>NET RECEIPTS (DISBURSEMENTS)</b>	<b><u>\$ 91,900</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 52,900</u></b>

Charitable Donations & Outreach	453,900	383,100
<b>ADDITIONAL CHARITABLE DONATIONS:</b>		
Together in Mission	\$ 475,600	\$ 272,000
Collections for Other Charities	117,500	143,400
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL CHARITABLE DONATIONS</b>	<b><u>\$ 593,100</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 415,400</u></b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL CHARITABLE DONATIONS AND OUTREACH</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,047,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 798,500</u></b>

# American Martyrs Preschool

## Financial Report for FY2014/2015

	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>2013-2014</u>
Number of Students	124	140
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Tuition, Fees, and Other Student Program		
Income \$	717,446 \$	707,233
Restricted Donations	49,190	86,514
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS \$</b>	<b>766,636 \$</b>	<b>793,747</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
Salaries & Related Costs \$	570,635 \$	586,283
Student Activities, Books & Supplies	54,972	53,310
Operational Expenses	38,118	24,877
Repairs, Maintenance & Improvements	40,926	79,154
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$</b>	<b>704,651 \$</b>	<b>743,624</b>
<b>NET INCREASE IN CASH/INVESTMENTS \$</b>	<b>61,985 \$</b>	<b>50,123</b>

# American Martyrs School

## Financial Report for FY2014/2015

	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>2013-2014</u>
Number of Students	695	694
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Tuition, Fees, and Other Student Program Income \$	4,800,300 \$	4,345,000
Donations from American Martyrs Parent Association (AMPA)	295,800	314,700
Restricted Donations	204,000	88,300
Unrestricted Donations	80,400	204,600
Other Income	5,400	18,100
American Martyrs Parish Support	30,000	30,000
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS \$</b>	<b>5,415,900 \$</b>	<b>5,000,700</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
Salaries & Related Costs \$	4,301,400 \$	4,126,500
Student Activities & Supplies	171,100	182,900
Textbooks	164,500	185,200
Operational Expenses	206,000	173,100
Classroom & Office Equipment	99,600	73,300
Other Educational Expenses/Capital Expenditures	181,100	96,900
Net Transfers to Capital Expenditures Fund	4,000	3,100
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$</b>	<b>5,127,700 \$</b>	<b>4,841,000</b>
<b>NET DECREASE IN CASH/INVESTMENTS \$</b>	<b>288,200 \$</b>	<b>159,700</b>

## Our Annual Stewardship Renewal

**Y**ou have to take care of yourself before you can take care of those you love. This rationale is difficult for many of us to accept. Mothers and fathers routinely place the needs of their children before their own; soldiers at war often throw their own safety to the wind in the interest of protecting their fellow soldiers. The story of Jesus also focuses on giving to others. If Christ calls us to imitate Him – to become completely selfless – then it would seem that focusing on ourselves might counteract our efforts as Christians.

Nevertheless, as we continue with our Annual Stewardship Renewal, Msgr. Barry is asking us all to focus a bit more on ourselves. No, he's not encouraging self-centeredness; he's asking us to reflect on our own lives and determine the areas that are in need of growth. Before the stewardship way of life can totally transform our parish, it must begin in each of our hearts. As each individual's spiritual life blossoms and grows, so will our parish as a whole. Will you plant the seed of stewardship in your own heart?

*Don't forget to bring your Commitment Card to Mass!*

### How do I use my Commitment Card?

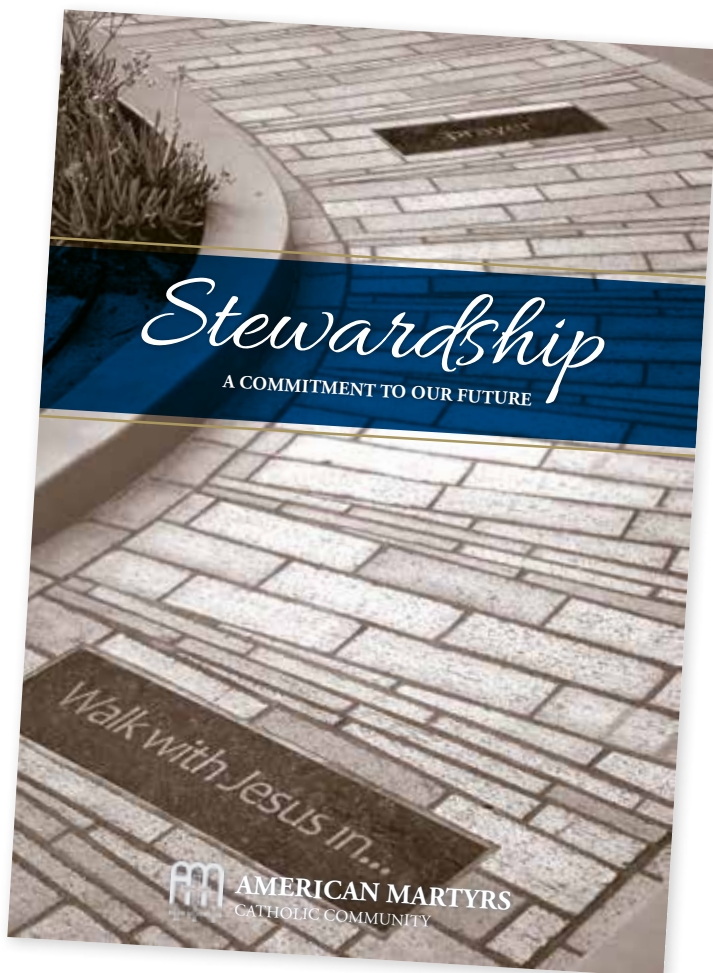
Your commitment card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving. It is designed to be used by the whole family.

**Time Section:** Except for the ill and homebound, everyone should be able to check "Come to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days." Try to check at least a few other items. Daily prayer should be a priority for every person trying to grow closer to God.

**Talent Section:** You can either sign up for new ministries or re-commit to your current ministries. Be sure to write your first name next to the ministry! This is especially important if the card is being used by more than one person.

**Treasure Section:** Clearly print how much money you plan to give each week or month to our parish. Try to take a step toward giving five percent of your income to American Martyrs.

*Every parish family receives a special "Stewardship Package" in the mail that further explains our parish's vision of stewardship. It includes a booklet that describes every ministry in the parish, as well as your commitment card.*



### Is your prayer life in need of a tune-up?

Honestly ask yourself, “How much time do I spend in prayer each week?” The answer is probably a bit embarrassing. Everyone wants to spend more time in prayer, but there’s just never enough time to do everything we want to do. Good intentions are just that: intentions. This year, as you’re discerning how you will offer your time to God, resolve to follow through with your commitments. Consider each moment you spend in prayer as nourishment for your soul. The spiritual health of our parish is only as strong as the sum of its parts (individual parishioners).

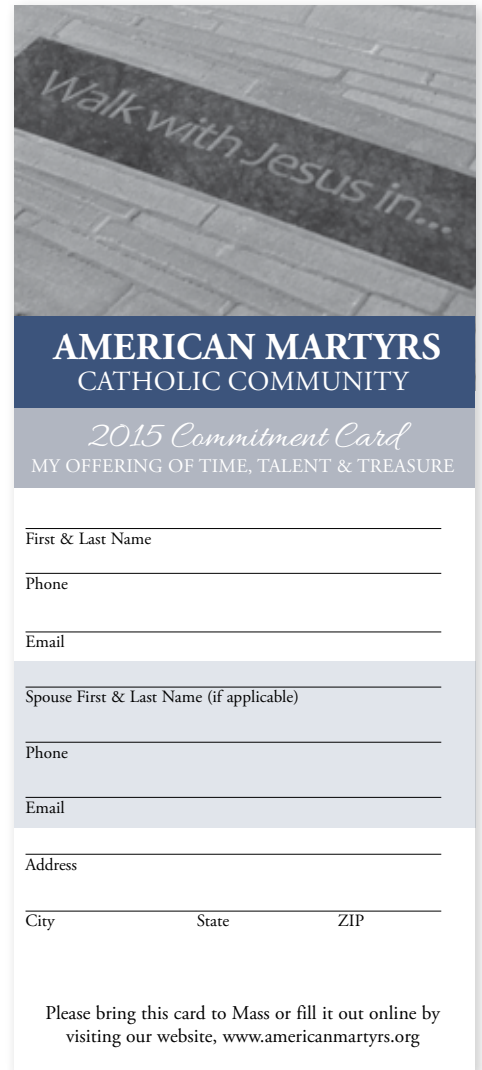
### Is your level of parish involvement in need of a boost?

We give our talents back to God when we get involved in ministries at American Martyrs. And, with a host of ministries to choose from, there’s something for everyone. Sure, ministries give parishioners opportunities to serve others in the community, but they also benefit those in the ministry itself. Ask anyone who actively participates in a ministry at American Martyrs, “Why do you enjoy serving in this way?” They’ll probably say, “I get more out of the ministry than the people I serve.” This year, as you’re discerning how you will offer your talents to God, considering signing up for a ministry that may benefit you, like a Bible study, prayer group, or retreat. Or, contribute to an outreach ministry where your good deeds not only help others in the community, but also give you feelings of satisfaction and thankfulness.

### Do you give a percentage of your income to the offertory?

It may be hard to see offertory giving as a way to “help yourself,” but when we approach the subject from a spiritual viewpoint, it can lead to individual spiritual growth and an increase in faith. Even the most savvy business person worries about his or her personal finances from time to time. Adding a weekly offertory check to the list of monthly bills may seem crazy but, ultimately, sacrificial giving forces us to cut unnecessary spending, create a budget and have faith that God will help us make it through the month. All of these are good things for each of us, individually. After faithfully giving to the offertory for a few months, many Catholics find that it’s not only possible to give a weekly offering, but that the fruits of their gift far outweigh the expense.

At American Martyrs, we ask that you give five percent to our parish and five percent to other charities. Why a percentage of income? First, because the tithe (10 percent) is a scriptural benchmark that the Church has honored for centuries (see Malachi 3:10). Secondly, we give a percentage of income because it is a common-sense standard by which everyone can equitably support the parish. Most of all, we give because we believe God comes first in everything, even finances.



The image shows a commitment card for American Martyrs Catholic Community. At the top, there is a photograph of a stone walkway with the text "Walk with Jesus in...". Below the photo, the text reads "AMERICAN MARTYRS CATHOLIC COMMUNITY" and "2015 Commitment Card MY OFFERING OF TIME, TALENT & TREASURE". The card contains several lines for personal information: "First & Last Name", "Phone", "Email", "Spouse First & Last Name (if applicable)", "Phone", "Email", "Address", "City", "State", and "ZIP". At the bottom, it says "Please bring this card to Mass or fill it out online by visiting our website, www.americanmartyrs.org".

# AMERICAN MARTYRS CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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## LITURGY SCHEDULE

**Saturday** :: 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday** :: 7:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

**Monday/Wednesday/Friday** :: 8:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 5:00 p.m.

**Tuesday/Thursday** :: 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 5:00 p.m.

**Saturday** :: 8:00 a.m.

**Holy Day** :: 5:00 p.m. (Vigil), 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

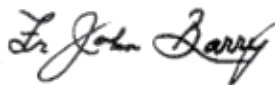
## Sustaining and Growing

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our deceased loved ones – more about this to come. The updating, expansion and remodeling of O'Donnell Hall and the Parish Center into an indoor-outdoor faith based gathering space with large event accommodations, a Welcome Center and functional office spaces will do so much to bring us together to celebrate and serve as a faith family.

When you receive your Renewal materials, please reflect and decide what you will sacrificially give back with gratitude to God as you complete and return your commitments. I know that your prayers, your sharing of your talents and your giving or your treasure will continue to sustain and grow our parish community where all are welcome.

In Christ,



Rev. Msgr. John F. Barry, P.A.  
Pastor

## Don't Forget to Return Your Commitment Card!

**Don't forget!**

*Our Stewardship  
Renewal is ongoing.  
Please remember to turn  
in your commitment  
cards to the parish  
as soon as possible.  
We appreciate your  
willingness to  
participate in this year's  
renewal. The more  
we grow to embrace  
and understand the  
stewardship way of life,  
the more our parish  
will flourish and grow!*

