

Whoa!

**“Whatever you do for the least of my brothers you do so for me.”**

Did you catch that? Today’s gospel ... Do you think Resurrection, with all the programs Peter just discussed ... supporting our twinning parish in Haite ... providing for the spiritual needs of our teens and adults ... providing for the needs of others in times of economic crisis ... Do you think Resurrection gets the message?

Given the economic uncertainties we are facing today some of what I am about to present is going to disturb some of you. My thought ... it is in times such as these that we will face our greatest challenge. And together we will meet it.

Good morning ... and thank you Peter

My name is Kelly Ryan. I’m a CPA and chair of the finance committee. I’ve been a parishioner since 1983. It has been suggested that I not go into anecdotal stories about early parish life before this church was built. How we traveled up and down Old Columbia Pike to celebrate mass between St Mark’s, Liberty Grove and Paint Branch high school. So I won’t get into any of that. But the growth of this parish and its programs is really quite remarkable. The Church of the Resurrection has always been a very dynamic and growing **community**.

As Peter has just enumerated, Resurrection is much more than a place for mass on Sunday.

### ***Our Purpose***

The parish’s finance committee includes 5 members of the parish with significant financial experience. In addition to me the committee members are Bill Ratcliff, Mary Foelster, John Debenbrock and Jim Torri. One of our objectives is to provide you with information about the financial operations of the parish. During the past year, in response to parishioners’ requests in last year’s survey, we began providing a monthly summary of financial activity in the bulletin. This summary is more extensive than the weekly basket collection information because it includes the results of the electronic giving and it also includes the amount of expenditures by fund.

### ***The Report***

The financial statements for the past year together with the approved budget for 2008 – 09 are now available. Let me take a moment to summarize last year's results.

Offertory and Capital Improvement collections totaled \$1.665 million and expenditures were \$1.559 million. \$70,000 of the excess collections represents a special collection for the new organ. The balance of the excess was applied against the mortgage.

In the coming year we project operating expenses and capital improvements will exceed collections by \$155 thousand. This year's Capital Improvements include the new speaker system and the purchase and installation of a new organ.

Debt reduction collections totaled \$184,000. During this past year proceeds from the Winterfest as well as returns from the Forward in Faith campaign were also used to pay down mortgage principal.

### **The Problem**

In addition to preparing the budget the finance committee analyzes collections and expenditures for patterns and trends. It was in the course of completing these analytics recently that we recognized a disturbing trend.

During 2001 PLC collections exceeded 500K; in 2002 they were 413k; in 2003 collections fell to 339k ... continuing the trend 2004 collections were 295k and 2005 collections were 195k. Last year's PLC collections totaled 184k, less than 40% of what was collected seven years ago. At the present rate it will take well over 10 years to pay off our \$2 million mortgage and during that period we will have paid half again as much (\$1,000,000) in interest.

Today, the Capital Improvements fund is at its lowest balance in ten years.

And through November 9 current year collections are down from last year by nearly 5%.

Clearly, these trends are disconcerting and must change.

### ***Commitment***

This parish is fortunate to have several families who have been very generous. But payment for these programs and facilities must be shared by all. **Realistically, providing for financial needs of the parish is the responsibility of all the members. As Catholics, one of the core tenants of our faith is to provide for the needs of others. We do this by making a commitment of our time, treasure and talent. Living our faith and demonstrating our love of God extends far beyond attending mass on Sunday. And that is exactly what this parish is doing with its programs and services.**

In past years I have discussed the nature of a commitment.

A commitment is a promise. It is usually for a long period and it always requires some sacrifice.

A commitment usually entails giving something up to advance a greater cause.

It is with this in mind that we are asking all members of our parish to consider making a financial commitment. **We are asking all families to commit to contributing, at a minimum, one hour's wage each week. That's 2 and a half % of your income.**

**And for those who are already at this level, we are asking you to increase your contribution to cover the cost of inflation.**

**If you're not comfortable with this amount, that's ok.** Let us know what you can commit to ... **The objective here is for all members of our parish to make a commitment.**

I thank you for your time and I ask that you give this request serious and prayerful consideration in the coming week.