

St. Paul Catholic Newman Center – University Parish Finance Council Report

As I reflect on my first nine months at the St. Paul Catholic Newman Center, I am filled with gratitude for the support and dedication of our parishioners and guidance offered by our Finance Council. The generosity shown, both in time and resources, plays a vital role in achieving our mission and ensuring a thriving future for our university parish. I am grateful for the dedication to our vision as we continuously work toward bringing the transformative power of Christ to all through word and action. Thank you for the trust you have placed in me, our university parish staff, and our Finance Council as we steward your gifts wisely. *Katie Fleener, Ph.D.*

The Finance Council and I offer the following 2024 calendar year financial recap:

Revenue

Overall revenue for the university parish increased from 2023 to 2024. While Sunday collections were slightly reduced, there were large increases from the OSV campaign, rental of Cardinal Newman Hall and football parking. The loss of rent from the Montessori school was the largest negative change to income. The Parish/Diocese is in negotiations to potentially lease the space and make up the lost revenue. However, the diocese is also considering listing the space with a professional leasing company. Outside of the rental income, the general trend is positive for our revenue since 2020.

	CY 2024	CY 2023
Total Income	\$ 1,401,105.00	\$ 1,300,056.00
<i>Major Income Areas</i>		
Sunday Offerings	\$ 753,806.00	\$ 757,720.00
Community Garden	\$ 38,677.00	\$ 23,733.00
Maintenance Collection	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
Montessori Rent	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 39,875.00
Facility Rental	\$ 22,428.00	\$ 12,192.00
Football Parking	\$ 73,128.00	\$ 56,808.00
Other Unrestricted	\$ 217,033.00	\$ 149,693.00
Misc Income	\$ 290,533.00	\$ 260,035.00

Expenses

Regular operating expenses for the university parish were up slightly year over year for 2024. Savings in salaries and benefits were offset by higher building and grounds maintenance costs. It is important to note that the higher building and grounds maintenance costs do include the costs for the community garden, which has largely been funded through external sources. We expect to see a substantial decrease in our monthly utility bills since completing the solar purchase in June of 2024. While costs for most things are up, the university parish staff work hard to find efficiencies and make sound long-term decisions. While the budget is always tight, we are still able to accomplish our mission and serve our community.

	CY 2024	CY 2023
Total Expense	\$ 1,411,038.00	\$ 1,232,362.00
<i>Major Expense Areas</i>		
Salary & Benefits	\$ 620,475.00	\$ 674,824.00
Utilities	\$ 85,618.00	\$ 82,360.00
Solar Buyout	\$ 150,000.00	-
Building Maintenance	\$ 112,755.00	\$ 100,503.00
Community Garden	\$ 33,995.00	-
Misc Expenses	\$ 408,195.00	\$ 374,675.00

While we finished 2024 with close to a \$10,000 deficit, it is worth noting that this is quite an achievement given the loss of Montessori rent and the one-time solar buyout expense.

Major Projects

Our university parish is in the process of completing several large capital projects to maintain our infrastructure, help serve our parishioners more efficiently and effectively, and to build community. We are very grateful for the generous support given during the OSV capital campaign. This allowed us to complete phases I & II of our roof repair. Phase III is the largest phase and involves the re-roofing of the flat areas over the classrooms, offices and kitchen area. The total price of the roof project is approximately \$300,000. Approval of large projects, such as phase III of our roof, is delayed due to the Chapter 11 process (please see below).

Our office staff are working on a technology upgrade to make our offices more efficient and secure. Several very old computers needed replacement as did the phone and email systems. By working with grants and non-profit partners, this is being accomplished substantially under budget. The staff are very thankful and expect this to help them serve our university parish much more effectively and securely.

Finally, the community garden is near completion with an anticipated opening for growing season in spring 2025. This ambitious project will provide opportunities for our parishioners to work together with the larger community to feed those less fortunate. We are so proud of the efforts that brought about this beautiful area.

Personnel

The Newman Center has seen a lot of changes recently in its leadership. The transition from Dan Nickerson to Dr. Katie Fleener in the role of Parish Life Coordinator was remarkably smooth. We are so thankful to Dan for his excellent stewardship as the interim PLC. After the departure of Fr. Byron, the Parish is now home to two full-time Claretians, Fr. Rubi Peter and Deacon David Gutierrez. The addition of Deacon David is a great help, as he has taken over as the Director of Religious Education and Assistant Campus Ministry Director. Our team at the Newman Center is constantly working to support and grow our flourishing community.

Fresno Diocese Chapter 11 Filing

As announced in May 2024, The Diocese of Fresno is working through the process of filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, which “will allow [the Diocese] to address the substantial number of claims brought forth by victims collectively, and it will allow [the Diocese] to address those claims honestly, compassionately and equitably.” Our university parish is currently working with the Diocese to ensure we operate in a manner that complies with the rules for bankruptcy filings. While this slows down some decisions on larger projects, we can still accomplish our core mission of serving our parish community’s needs. For additional information regarding the status of the Chapter 11 filing, from the Diocese, please see the information found at:

<https://dioceseoffresno.org/addressing-victim-suffering>.