

St. Paul Catholic Newman Center – Parish Finance Council Report

Did you know that St. Paul Catholic Newman Center has a Finance Council that meets regularly to review our parish financials? We have a wonderful group of five volunteers that willingly and graciously give of their time and financial expertise to ensure we are compliant with current financial practices and canon law mandates. For additional information on our [Parish Finance Council](#), please visit our St. Paul Catholic Newman Center website.

On behalf of the Finance Council, we offer the following 2025-2026 fiscal year recap:

Revenue

We are happy to report that our vibrant parish community at the Newman Center is growing. As you see at weekend Mass, we are a bit more crowded each week. Thankfully, that has led to increased donations to help us fund ministries and take care of our facilities. Program fees increased due to demand for Confirmation and other sacrament preparation. Football and other event parking has grown substantially over the last years. Our unrestricted gifts provided as general contributions have increased as well. Thank you for remembering us as you consider options for Qualified Charitable Distributions and estate planning decisions. We are very thankful for the Knights of Columbus, the Women's Guild, and our ministries who help the parish regularly with their fundraising.

	FY 25-26	FY 24-25
Total Income	\$1,417,562	\$1,350,930
Major income areas		
Sunday Offerings	\$ 739,098	\$ 717,880
Program/Education Fees	\$ 69,701	\$ 42,380
Facility Rental	\$ 40,566	\$ 37,023
Fundraising Income	\$ 129,827	\$ 92,818
Other Unrestricted	\$ 259,862	\$ 242,978

Expenses

In the last fiscal year, several expense categories increased for the parish. All of our staff positions that were open are now filled, with the exception of our music ministry position, and we now have two full-time Claretian priests. This led to a year-over-year increase in salaries and benefits. We also had a \$13,000 increase to our property tax bill, a \$30,000 insurance increase, and higher than anticipated utility costs. Building maintenance costs increased with the improvements to the playground, on-going issues with our commercial refrigerators and freezers in Cardinal Newman Hall, necessary roof repairs, and broken water lines throughout the property. Each year we anticipate an increase in the required assessments that we pay to the Diocese, which is reflected in our increased expenses.

	FY 25-26	FY 24-25
Total Expense	\$ 1,462,627	\$ 1,344,782
Major Expense areas		
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 715,901	\$ 646,126
Administrative Exp.	\$ 73,257	\$ 78,812
Utilities	\$ 93,950	\$ 70,921
Assessments	\$ 168,978	\$ 155,073
Building Maintenance	\$ 172,357	\$ 159,588
Insurance	\$ 59,187	\$ 29,445
Misc. Expense	\$ 93,883	\$ 66,658

These larger expenditures caused a net reduction in cash for the parish of -\$44,402. Our staff is working hard to be efficient with administrative costs and to stretch our funds to cover as much as possible. We are also working with our ministries on their funding sources to make them as self-sustaining as possible. As we look toward the future, we anticipate additional roof repairs and repairs or replacement of our aging HVAC systems.

Major Projects

In the last fiscal year, you generously gave to a trust that allowed us to renovate the house that the Claretians are now in. They are very grateful for their new home. We were also able to make improvements to the apartment attached to the church, which is now Sister Kathleen's home. Thank you for your contributions to these projects.

Around the Newman Center, we also completed safety improvements on the playground, thanks to our Familiastery ministry. It's been wonderful having it accessible to families after Mass. While we are still pending the final phase of roof repairs, we have been able to do smaller repairs as needed.

Personnel

The Newman Center is so thankful for the service of the Claretians in our university parish. We are now home to two full-time priests, Fr. Rubi Peter and Fr. David Gutierrez, as well as Deacon Ray John Mejorada. Our administrative staff is nearly complete with the addition of Hector Rodriguez as the Director of Family and Life Ministries/Liturgical Coordinator, and we hope to soon hire a Director of Music and Worship Ministries. Our team is very active in ministering to and supporting our parish and the campus communities that are central to our mission.

Fresno Diocese Chapter 11 Filing

The Diocese of Fresno Chapter 11 Bankruptcy case is an ongoing process. These filings are typically measured in a couple of years, not months, and it will still be some time before we know the final outcome and its effect on our parish finances. What we do know right now is that we must fully operate within our parish general fund which is comprised of Sunday Mass donations and general parish contributions. You may wonder how Chapter 11 filing affects the current donations you make to our university parish. Money that you donate to Newman Center today is used by the parish to fund our day-to-day operations. Because we do not run a surplus, we are taking care to spend your contributions wisely on physical necessities and programming that furthers the mission of our university parish and builds our community. The parish's legal advice is that no parish's ordinary donations or collections can reasonably be at risk.

Most of the legal process of the Chapter 11 filing is handled by attorneys and is an intentionally closed process. For additional information regarding the status of the Chapter 11 filing, from the Diocese, please see the information found at: <https://dioceseoffresno.org/frequently-asked-questions>. Regardless, we are praying for a just resolution to the bankruptcy including a fair agreement with the creditors.