



ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA ST. LUCY

Thirty-Eight North Austin Boulevard · Oak Park, Illinois 60302

## WHAT DOES THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE DO?

This question is heard from time to time and this seems like a good place to address it. The Fundraising Committee is a group of parish members dedicated to creating and implementing ideas whereby we organize events to raise revenue for the parish. This revenue supplements the weekly offerings and other donations received by the parish. These monies are needed to help cover the expenses of operating and maintaining the parish on a day to day basis; there are utilities, insurance, maintenance, salaries, emergency funds, loan interest costs...so many areas vital to maintaining our place of worship.

In the past few years we have been able to earmark a portion (approximately \$5000) of the 500 Club Certificate Program annual proceeds for a particular building maintenance project. These projects have included the replacement of the inner and outer kitchen doors in Maguire Hall, the refurbishing of eight of the exterior oak doors of the Church, the replacement of a pair of fire doors in Maguire Hall, and the repair and installation of hand railings at both the entrances to Church and to Maguire Hall. The next area to receive attention with these 'earmarked' funds is the door on the south entrance to the Rectory. With the exception of this \$5000 special yearly expenditure, ALL of the other funds raised by the committee throughout the year go toward the expenses involved in operating this parish community we all love so dearly.

The Fundraising Committee meets once a month all year round. A core group of members is able to participate in these meetings; members lead, and/or are involved in particular projects and events during the year, and many other people, beyond the official committee, help out as needed. Our two largest events of the year which require the most people-power are the Christmas Bazaar in November and the Spring Event in April or May. Also on our calendar are bake sales, flower sales, the gift card sale, the Christmas wreath sale, the big parish raffle, the Oak Park Farmers' Market donut sale, an outing to a White Sox game, an outing to Maywood Race Track, the parish Walk-a-thon, and the treasured 500 Club Certificate Program.

We have raised an average of \$45,000 each of the past few years, and for that we are most grateful to our generous Parishioners, Alumni, and Friends. We always aim to put **FUN** into our fundraising efforts. And of course, the success of all fundraising depends on YOU. Our events only succeed because YOU participate.

As our Mission Statement says, we work to "generate involvement and ownership to sustain our Parish Community." We are all stewards in one way or another, taking ownership of this, our spiritual home. To paraphrase a prayer we say prior to our meetings, "Bless us with wisdom and creativity...that we may help to sustain our Parish and to support our Faith Community."

*—The St. Catherine of Siena—St. Lucy Fund Raising Committee*