

SAINT JOHN VIANNEY  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
*Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston*



*Living Faith  
Changing Lives  
Making a Difference!*

**2018**  
Annual Report

## A Note from Father Troy

Dear Friends in Christ:

The opening words of Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." could be spoken of this past year of 2017-18. On August 4, 2017, we celebrated the closing of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of our parish and the completion of our Continuing the Vision Campaign and renovations with a wonderful celebration on our patronal Feast Day. Little did we know that a mere three weeks later, our area and our parish would suffer the greatest disaster we have ever seen with the flooding of thousands of homes in the wake of the torrential rains of Hurricane Harvey. What has become apparent is that the recovery is taking much longer than originally anticipated and the impact is going to last for many years to come.

It is estimated that at least 20% of our 5000 parish households were directly impacted by Harvey, including a quarter of our parish staff. Yet, even before the flood waters receded, our parishioners and our staff were reaching out to help fellow parishioners, friends and neighbors in their time of need. Even while their own homes sat damaged, SJV parishioners and staff worked to help others who had no other help. In the first moments of disaster response, SJV parishioners were there providing food, clothing, supplies, financial assistance, labor and spiritual support. We immediately opened our parish to CenterPoint Energy to locate a mobile transfer substation so that tens of thousands of area residents could have electricity. We opened our doors to house a FEMA Disaster Relief Center in our buildings so that thousands of families could receive needed federal assistance from FEMA and the SBA. We set up a Supply Depot so that anyone could come and get needed supplies to help start digging out of the mud. SJV has collaborated with the Red Cross, Catholic Charities, Baylor College of Medicine and others in reaching out to victims of the floods. Our efforts continue to this very day without a break.

Harvey impacted the parish greatly. We saw a dramatic decline in attendance and an immediate loss of income, yet still had the need to keep the parish running. As a result, we immediately cut spending, reduced staff and scaled back some of our programming and activities. We went to our savings to help cover the loss of income and the costs



of repairs. These measures, though extremely difficult, enabled us to keep all of our essential ministries and move forward.

More than a year after Harvey, attendance is not where it was before that fateful weekend, but it is getting better. Income is coming back slowly, but is not where it used to be. We still have the CenterPoint Substation on our grounds and Social Service Ministries continues each day in their efforts to assist not only flood victims but all those who come to us in their need.

For our efforts, our parish was recognized by the Houston Chronicle as a Harvey Hero. Though challenging, this long year has been one of the parish's finest hours.

In this Annual Report you will see just a little of the tremendous work that has been done by our parish. What it speaks of is the even more tremendous grace that the Lord has bestowed upon our parish, not just in the last year, but for the last 52 years of our existence as a parish. While we do not know what all the future holds for our parish in the years to come, we are filled with hope because of the tremendous graces and mercy that God has shown in the past and continues to bestow upon us today.

In Pace Christi,

Handwritten signature of Fr. Troy

Reverend R. Troy Gately  
Pastor

# Harvey Relief at a Glance



**138** Families were helped with Clean-up, Demucking & Demolition

**286** Volunteers participated and worked a total of 610 shifts

**2,464** Hours of Clean-up work in 32 (documented) days



SJV assisted more than 950 households with disaster relief.

\$500,000 has been given in assistance to victims.

In addition to financial grants, SJV has provided:

Groceries for 372 families through the Food Pantry

Clothing for 368 families through Joseph's Coat

Gift cards for 336 families (\$24,715.00 value)

321 meals prepared (\$9,630.00 estimated value)

1,074 Households were served by our Emergency Supply Depot

\$10,080.00 estimated value of in-kind donations

\$4,500.00 estimated value of backpacks and school supplies



# A Challenging Year



## **A Parishioner's Perspective**

First there was the shock of rising waters. "It's never been this high before", we kept repeating. There was also an overwhelming sense of gratitude that the family was safe.

Then there was the shock of seeing your residence and possessions ruined. For some it took weeks to even get back in. Whenever we did start the demucking (a new term), time became a blur for the sheer magnitude and scale of the job. Numbness set in. Deciding what to save and what to pitch was often not our own choice. The things that were boxed would make for good stories later. Somehow we got through it.

## **Our Response**

When you are accustomed to rendering aid, it is a challenge to be on the receiving end of aid and assistance. However, with the flooding on our own property, volunteer and staff property, and throughout the neighborhoods of so many parishioners, that is where we found ourselves. By God's grace, the initial feelings of helplessness turned into action. Our campus became a temporary sub-station that returned power to thousands, including us, so the parish could re-open and respond to the needs of all affected. Thousands of calls were made to reach out and offer assistance. Teams of parishioners were dispatched to help flooded neighbors and parishioners start their clean-up process. A supply center was set up in the Activity Center for anyone who needed essentials. Donations of all kinds flooded in. FEMA opened a Disaster Recovery Center on campus. There were countless corporal acts of mercy as well as spiritual ones. We give thanks to the Lord for his mercy, his love, and for his many blessings throughout this time of suffering for many.



We developed a new appreciation for dehumidifiers and fans while drying and waiting, waiting and drying. Everyone was talking about FEMA and insurance.

**Re-building:** In the midst of the anxiety, there was an opportunity to build back better and stronger, maybe do some remodeling. Then began a special relationship with a contractor for some and work crews for others. Patience definitely was a virtue while we started hoping for that homecoming.

**Temporary Housing:** We moved around a lot and wore the same clothes and shoes to everything. There were times when it seemed that the rest of the world had forgotten or would never understand.

**Moving Back:** Still much to be done and patience was needed again but little things like our own shower, our own bed, and much needed privacy were priceless! We lost (or misplaced) some possessions but there was a sense of detachment.

**In Retrospect:** A year has passed and we still haven't processed everything. But what we will remember in five years is the generosity and care of friends, family, and complete strangers, and knowing that God is always in control.





## ***Long Term Recovery***

We started the rebuilding, both physically and emotionally. To help with this process, our Social Ministries office began the Hope Network to support our flooded parishioners. Volunteers check up on our displaced families regularly and offer prayer, encouragement, gift cards, and even hot meals.

A Disaster Relief Fund was started and helped ease the financial burden of the flood victims. SJV Ministries, groups, parishioners and other groups and organizations joined the Hope Network in various relief efforts.

As this report goes to press, many are still in the rebuilding process and we haven't forgotten them. Our parish family continues to grow in holiness and faith throughout this journey. During this process we are renewed as a community and our hope for a bright future is stronger than ever!



**Special Thanks to:**  
SJV Social Ministries and the volunteers at Joseph's Coat, the Food Pantry, Disaster Relief Ministry and the Hope Network

SJV Ministries and groups like Parish Life, Young Adults, Music Ministry, St. Anne's Society, St. Monica's Society, ACTS, TMIY, Knights of Columbus, Joyfull Women's Guild, Women's Club, Women's Bible Study Group, Honeymooners at Heart, Youth Formation and CCE Families. Also Awty International School, NJHS at St. John Paul II School, West Houston Recovery, and all parishioners and friends who contributed in various ways



# Living Faith



## Relic Visits

This year we hosted not one but two relics of holy men important to SJV. In November the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary brought a first class relic, the blood, of St. John Paul II, for a day of veneration.

Then in April it was another true privilege to have Fr. Patrice Chocholski, current Cure of Ars, return and bring the relic of the heart of St. John Vianney, our patron saint. There were regular weekend Masses, confessions, and many other devotions. As thousands turned out for both, more impressive than even the relics was the beautiful faith of so many that came to pray.

## Blessing of the Animals

Parishioners and pets gathered in the scout area on the Feast of St. Francis, friend to all living things. This year Fr. Clark joined veteran pet lover, Fr. Chuck, in the prayer service and blessing. Attendance grows every year. Dogs were in the majority but it was fun to see the geckos and bunnies too. The best part is watching the childrens' happiness when their furry friends get their own blessing from Father.



## Sacraments:

**120 infants and 36 children (ages 1 -7) received their Baptism**

**19 youth (ages 7-17) completed the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC) and 23 adults, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

**263 children received their Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist**

**84 youth and 32 adults received the gifts of the Holy Spirit by the Sacrament of Confirmation**

**62 couples celebrated their Marriage**



## Tenebrae

The Vesper Choir offered the parish its first Tenebrae, an ancient monastic service traditionally celebrated during Holy Week. This liturgy featured psalms, canticles, and the mournful Lamentations of Jeremiah. Celebrated after sundown, there is the gradual extinguishing of candles to the point of complete darkness, foreshadowing the bleakness of Good Friday. Those in attendance (and the chapel had standing room only) were able to enter more fully into the mystery of Christ's Passion.

## Women's Day of Prayer

St. John Vianney Catholic Church offers many opportunities to pray in communion with one another. One example is the Women's Day of Prayer during Lent. This year the day began with Mass followed by a guided reflection by Maureen Bacchi. The theme of the day was "Meeting Mary at the Foot of the Cross". It was a wonderful opportunity to slow down, reflect, and grow closer to the Blessed Mother. It also allowed old and new friends to share a special day with one another.

# Changing Lives



## **ESL Graduates: Equipped for a Better Life**

As part of our community outreach, SJV offers two semesters of English as a Second Language (ESL). We would like to congratulate our 61 spring 2018 graduates!

We would also like to acknowledge our very talented and dedicated ESL Teachers, Substitute Teachers and ESL Advisory Team members who volunteered their time and talents this semester. Some of the benefits of ESL classes include an increase in community participation, improvement in family life, increased opportunities in education and employment, and ultimately, self-sufficiency. Thank you to all of our volunteers! What a difference you've made in your students' lives!

## **A Journey of Faith Looking back on 2017-2018 RCIA**

Congratulations to the women and men in the RCIA process who celebrated the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Throughout the year you may have seen the candidates in a Sunday Mass, celebrating one of the minor rites within the Initiation process, or perhaps serving at the parish Bazaar, Party on the Lot, or a Parish Lenten Dinner.

The teachings and traditions of our over 2,000 year-old Catholic Church are very wide and very deep. It takes time to gain a basic understanding of the teachings and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults provides that opportunity. It is a process involving reflection, prayer, instruction, formation and discernment.

Please keep our current and past RCIA participants in your prayers as they continue their faith journey! May they become known to us and us to them! Remember also in prayer their godparents, sponsors, and RCIA team members who journey with them.

### **Faith Formation:**

**120 Pre-K and Kindergarten children,  
680 Elementary,  
230 Jr. High and  
235 High School students were enrolled in Continuing Christian Education (CCE)**

## **Full of Joy**

The JoyFull Women's Guild has created a place and time for women of all ages to come together and find inspiration, friendship and support. The Guild has meetings on Thursday mornings and some evenings.

The format offers insight and spiritual growth through the study of Scripture, lives of the saints, encyclicals, Church teachings and guest speakers. It is also an opportunity to connect to small groups for book studies, social and service outings, gardening, walking or simply sharing a meal.

For more information about the JoyFull Women's Guild, please visit the website or contact the Adult Formation Office.

*"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." ~ John 15:11*

# Making a Difference



## **Night at the Ballpark**

Even though the Astros lost the game 2-1 to Tampa Bay, SJV won!

Over 700 parishioners went to the game, many wearing SJV shirts, and everyone had a great time. It was exciting to see our parish name along with the choir on the jumbotron at the ballpark. The choir's stellar performance of the national anthem made us all very proud.

It was great to have so many different ages, ministries, and mass times join us. As a parish social event, it was a homerun.



## **Social Ministries:**

SJV had 1,185 emergency service visits from families, assisting a total of 4,098 individuals, 52% of them children. This includes 82 expectant mothers in our Gabriel Project

**107 Families or 288 individuals were assisted with their utility bills**

Through the Food Pantry, 1,321 bags of food were distributed to 879 families or 3,312 individuals. 44 homeless individuals were assisted with Hope Bags

Our Joseph's Coat volunteers served 1,942 individuals with clothing, plus \$150,000 earned for our Social Ministries

168 Families and 369 children were served through our Christmas Program. We gave nearly \$14,000 in gift cards, more than 500 wrapped gifts, and 144 hams and turkeys

## **Joseph's Coat**

**30 Years and Counting!**

Never lacking volunteers, Joseph's Coat has been providing funds for the parish's Social Ministries as well as emergency assistance with clothing and other items to families in need in our area since December 1987. To all volunteers who have faithfully served at Joseph's Coat throughout the years, our most sincere gratitude and appreciation! *And Happy Anniversary!*

## **Bells Will Be Ringing**

After much anticipation, our new bells, all 14 of them, can be heard ringing from our new bell tower. Besides the hourly tolls, they will be rung for special masses such as funerals and weddings. Although new to us, the bells continue a long tradition of a call to prayer.





# Thanks for your Support!



## **SJV Charities** 2017 - 2018

- **Casa Juan Diego** (Shelter for Immigrants)
- **Magnificat House** (Shelter for the Homeless)
- **Wellsprings** (Shelter for Abused Women)
- **Angela House** (Halfway House for Incarcerated Women)
- **Isaiah House** (Halfway House for Incarcerated Men)
- **Memorial Assistance Ministries** (Emergency Services)
- **Habitat for Humanity** (Housing)
- **Interfaith Ministries | Meals on Wheels** (Food Services)
- **Our Daily Bread** (Food Services)
- **Catholic Charities** (Emergency Services)
- **Servants of the Pierced Hearts** (Religious)
- **Carmelite Nuns** (Religious)
- **Cenacle Retreat House** (Religious)
- **Texas Right to Life** (Healthcare)
- **Houston Coalition for Life** (Healthcare)

### Stewardship:

Special thanks to our sponsors, committee members, our staff, over 1,300 volunteers, and countless attendees who participated in our 2017 Fall Bazaar.

The bazaar had a total earnings of \$262,300.00. 100% of all proceeds benefited our parish charities.

In addition to this, we also dedicate monies from our regular income to support other parishes and charitable entities through subsidies and financial gifts.

Many benefit from our sacrificial stewardship. A great witness for Living Faith, Changing Lives & Making a Difference!

- **Spring Branch Community Health Center** (Healthcare)
- **San Jose Clinic** (Healthcare)
- **CanCare of Houston** (Healthcare)
- **Interfaith Care Partners** (Healthcare)
- **St. Peter Claver Church** (Parish)
- **St. Francis of Assisi Church** (Parish)
- **Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory High School** (Catholic Education)
- **St. John XXIII College Preparatory** (Catholic Education)
- **St. John Paul II School** (Catholic Education)
- **St. Jerome School** (Catholic Education)
- **Incarnate Word Academy** (Catholic Education)
- **Queen of Peace School** (Catholic Education)
- **FOCUS | Fellowship of Catholic University Students** (Catholic Education)
- **University of St. Thomas | School of Theology** (Catholic Education)
- **University of St. Thomas Parish Scholarship Program** (Catholic Education)

## Finance Report

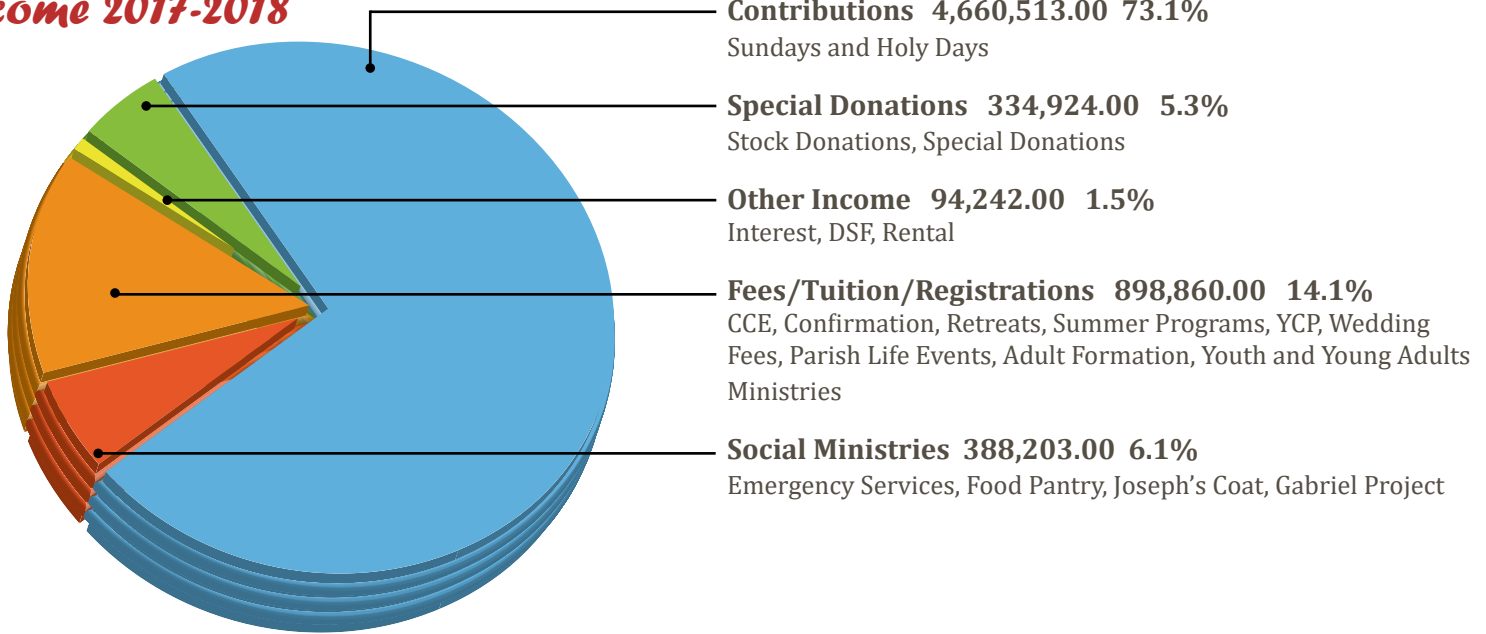
### Financial Statement for Fiscal Year 2018 (July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018)

For Fiscal Year 2018 we had revenues of \$6,376,742 and expenses of \$5,845,773 resulting in a net gain of \$530,969. For Fiscal Year 2019 we are projecting an approximate **5% decrease in revenue**. Projected decrease is attributed to the continued effects of Hurricane Harvey along with the ongoing construction on Memorial Drive. We are projecting an approximate **4.5% increase in overall expenses**. This is attributed to the increase in healthcare insurance and property insurance. The projected revenue and expense figures will result in a net loss of **\$77,500** for FY 2019 if all variables hold true.

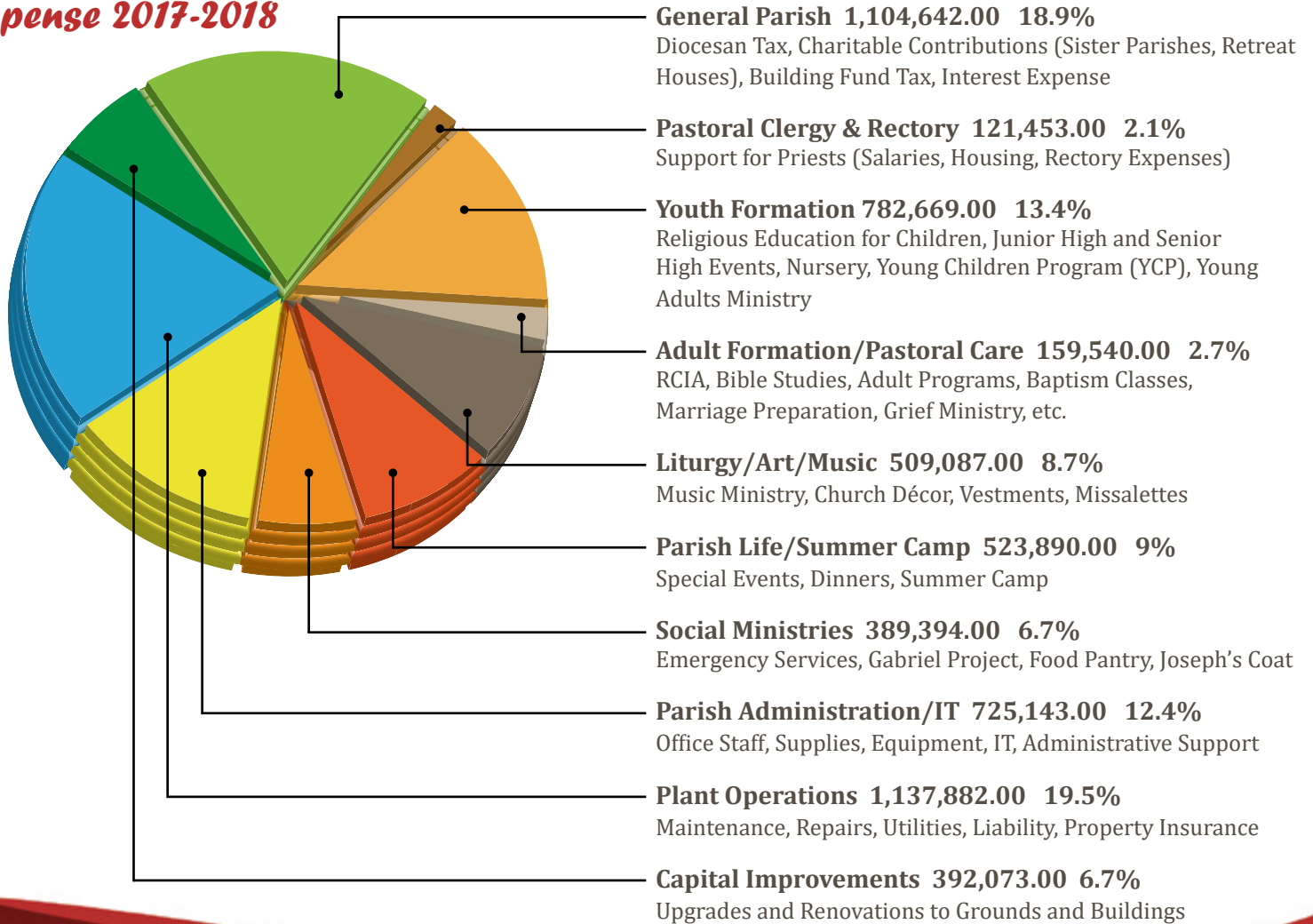
Contributions for Hurricane Harvey Relief and grants given are considered extraordinary and are not included in this report.

Description	2017-2018 Budget	2017-2018 Actual	2018-2019 Budget
<b>Revenue</b>			
Contributions	4,300,000.00	4,660,513.00	4,483,900.00
Special Donations	150,000.00	334,924.00	150,000.00
Other Income: DSF/Interest/Rental	186,000.00	94,242.00	177,400.00
Fees/Tuition/Registrations	758,100.00	898,860.00	878,300.00
Social Ministries	275,900.00	388,203.00	360,400.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>5,670,000.00</b>	<b>6,376,742.00</b>	<b>6,050,000.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
General Parish	1,026,525.00	1,104,642.00	1,043,000.00
Pastoral Clergy & Rectory	114,415.00	121,453.00	137,400.00
Youth Formation	838,303.00	782,669.00	898,805.00
Adult Formation/Pastoral Care	268,114.00	159,540.00	296,600.00
Liturgy/Art/Music	494,040.00	509,087.00	517,105.00
Parish Life/Summer Camp	486,920.00	523,890.00	563,900.00
Social Ministries	471,071.00	389,394.00	440,600.00
Parish Administration/IT	734,482.00	725,143.00	790,950.00
Plant Operations	1,047,630.00	1,137,882.00	1,157,140.00
Capital Improvements	210,500.00	392,073.00	282,000.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>5,692,000.00</b>	<b>5,845,773.00</b>	<b>6,127,500.00</b>
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>(22,000.00)</b>	<b>530,969.00</b>	<b>(77,500.00)</b>

## Income 2017-2018



## Expense 2017-2018



SAINT JOHN VIANNEY  

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CATHOLIC CHURCH

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